

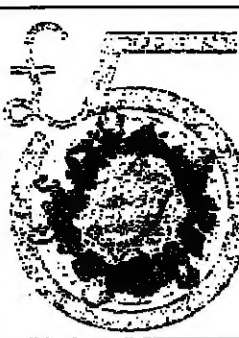
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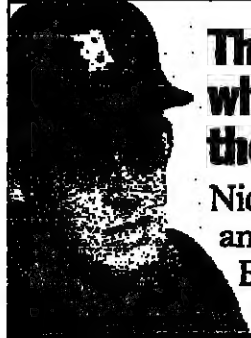
From you to your baby

Predicting a healthy future from the womb PAGE 16



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The man who broke the bank

Nick Leeson and the fall of Barings P42

15 PAGES OF SPORT

Heading for Wembley

Leeds's first-leg win Plus Cricket World Cup preview, SECTION 2



Warning of more IRA bombs

Closed circuit TV may have filmed terrorists

By MICHAEL EVANS, BILL FROST AND STEWART TENDLER

JOHN MAJOR held talks with senior Cabinet colleagues last night to finalise a security clampdown aimed at foiling a renewed IRA bombing campaign as police and security services issued a warning that they expect further attacks on the mainland.

The meeting in Downing Street, attended by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, was called after the huge explosion in London Docklands last Friday, which brought to an end the 17-month ceasefire.

The Prime Minister is due to make a statement about the attack in the Commons this afternoon.

It emerged yesterday that MI5 had warned the Government a month ago to expect a renewal of violence, but the Security Service had not believed any resumption would take place before the beginning of March.

After the Docklands attack, which killed two and injured more than 100, MI5 also said there would be more terrorist attacks on the mainland, and possibly in Northern Ireland. Last night, David Veness, the Assistant Commissioner in overall charge of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch and Special Branch, said further attacks could be launched "anytime, anywhere on the mainland". Sir Paul passed on the warning personally to the Prime Minister.

Police yesterday issued details of the lorry used to carry the bomb. It was a Ford low-loader of the type used to transport vehicles, and bore the false registration C229 GWG. The vehicle is believed to be about 11 years old.

The Yard is optimistic that

Three days ago the nationalist position was stronger than at any time in the present troubles. The bomb has reversed all this

—William Rees-Mogg, page 18
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the bombers may have been captured on closed circuit television cameras surrounding the side street where the device was left. Commander John Grieve, the head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch and national co-ordinator of terrorist investigations, said: "We have got a lot of closed circuit television. We are analysing it at the moment. There is material from all around the area."

He would not comment on how long the lorry bomb had been parked near South Quay railway station, apart from saying: "It was there long enough for us to be content about the index number and identification."

Standing amid the debris from the blast, Mr Grieve said that between 500lb and 1,000lb of explosive was used. "It was a big bomb. It is remarkable many more people were not killed. There were vehicles parked everywhere and people were moving them as a result of the police."

Nearby grey steel cladding lay twisted and shards of glass were scattered on the pave-

ment. The bomb left a deep crater, 14ft across, and fractured a gas main.

Police believe that an IRA active service unit may have bought the lorry at auction and converted it into a low-loader, which would have raised fewer suspicions than an ordinary van or lorry. The bomb would have been hidden behind the cab in the lockers used to keep tools. There was nothing loaded on to the back of the vehicle.

Mr Grieve issued an appeal for help in tracing the lorry and asked company security managers to make sure their closed circuit systems were operating properly. He also asked them not to erase tapes and said: "At this stage, we don't know where this vehicle had been in the country. It would be awful if there was a tape of this vehicle somewhere and it was wiped. When we have a better idea of the vehicle's whereabouts, video surveillance film could be very useful."

Within hours of the attack, forces across Britain returned to the state of alert that preceded the paramilitaries' ceasefire. In the City of London armed officers began a series of rolling roadblocks and manned control points.

Security was heightened for VIPs and Cabinet ministers who might be possible targets and security measures were stepped up at stations, airports and ports.

MI5's warning last month was given in an intelligence assessment to key ministers which highlighted deteriorating relations between the pro-bombing and pro-peace elements in the IRA. The only aspect of last week's attack that caused the Security Service any surprise was the timing. It was judged that the IRA hardliners would wait until the end of the month to see if the Government agreed to all-party talks.

MI5 has been giving weekly intelligence assessments since the ceasefire began in August 1994, but a month ago the language changed dramatically when it was realised that the hardline camp in the seven-man IRA Provisional Army



Armed police returned to security checkpoints in the City of London yesterday

Council were no longer prepared to go along with the peace initiative begun by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president.

Irish police believe that during the past month the IRA has been moving men and equipment to Britain and Northern Ireland from the Republic.

The intelligence warnings were given to key ministers, including Mr Major, and the police. However, the MI5 as-

essment was only part of the picture. There was a political assessment and although ministers were prepared for a breakdown in the peace process, there appeared to have been a general view that the hardliners would wait until the end of the month.

According to security sources in London and Dublin, the decision to end the ceasefire and revert to bombing was taken by all seven members of the council when

it became clear that a "disastrous" split would follow if there was not unanimity.

Over recent weeks, the hardliners, who claim to represent almost 50 per cent of IRA membership, made plain to their leaders they had lost patience with the faltering peace process, security sources in Dublin said. They had opposed the ceasefire from the start and threatened to "go it alone" unless the mainland campaign was resumed.

Bruton warns Major not to 'pour petrol on the flames'

By NICHOLAS WOOD, NICHOLAS WATT AND MARTIN FLETCHER

THE Prime Minister was trying last night to contain a serious new rift with Dublin over the events which led to Friday's bomb and an end to the 17-month IRA ceasefire.

At the same time, President Clinton pledged to do all in his power to rescue the Irish peace initiative. "The people of Great Britain do not deserve to have this violence... We will not stop in our efforts until peace has been secured," he declared on the White House lawn.

But divisions between London and Dublin were plain from remarks by John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, who bitterly criticised British policy towards the search for a lasting peace.

Only hours after Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, had again exhorted elections as the "door into the conference chamber", Mr Bruton denounced the idea. He said that elections so soon after the resumption of violence would "pour petrol on the flames" and accused Mr Major of making a "mistake" by sidelining the Mitchell Report's call for decommissioning of IRA weapons only when all party talks were taking place.

Mr Bruton also dismissed Mr Major's call for Sinn Féin to denounce the bombing of South Quay in London's docklands as a "waste of time" and said the top priority was a restoration of the IRA ceasefire. "We should concen-

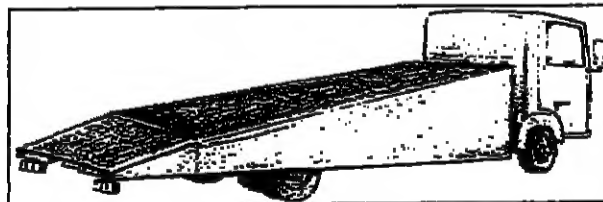
trate on the main goal, which is stopping the violence now, getting them [Sinn Féin] to get the IRA to say we're stopping the killing."

In an emotional performance on BBC television, Mr Bruton accused the IRA and Sinn Féin of "throwing back in our face" the act of faith Dublin had made in assuming the ceasefire was irrevocable. Accordingly, he had cut off all political meetings with Sinn Féin, although lines of communication were being kept open. Britain, which had earlier been prepared to continue talking to Sinn Féin, later apparently followed suit.

Mr Major spoke to Mr Bruton shortly after his television appearance. Downing Street officials said the 20-minute telephone conversation had been "friendly and constructive", but admitted that differences remained over elections. Mr Bruton said that he wanted Dayton-style talks with all parties under one roof, but in different rooms, of the kind that eventually secured a settlement in Bosnia.

With the peace process in turmoil, Sir Patrick said on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* that Britain would neither "bow the knee to terrorism" nor be deflected from the quest for a lasting settlement. The peace process was "seriously injured but not terminally injured".

But Mr Bruton concentrated on page 2, col 7.



A police drawing of the bombers' Ford low-loader

Lightning effects

Victims of the world's biggest multiple lightning strike were left with odd skin markings and have shown strange psychological effects since they were injured five months ago Page 5

Closed books

Academics say that English A-level courses which allowed schools to avoid nearly all pre-20th century literature were creating alarming gaps in the reading of students arriving at university Page 6

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Top jockey badly injured in fall

By SIMON WILDE

WALTER SWINBURN, one of Britain's leading jockeys and three times a Derby winner, was unconscious in the intensive care unit of a Hong Kong hospital yesterday after falling in a race there.



Swinburn: unconscious in Hong Kong hospital

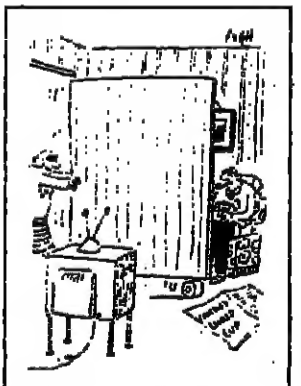
to say when he might regain consciousness.

Swinburn, 34, was thrown from Liffey River shortly after the start of the Albert Plate at the Sha Tin track. The horse jinked after the start, then did a complete circle before heading across the track and smashing through the rail. The rider was hurled to the ground, breaking ribs and a collarbone and sustaining a blow to the head. He was later reported to have fluid on his lungs.

Swinburn has been one of Britain's leading Flat jockeys in the past 15 years and rode Shergar, later to disappear after being kidnapped — to victory in the 1981 Derby at the age of 19. His other Epsom triumphs were on Shahrastani in 1986 and Lammtarra in 1995.

In 1984, Brian Taylor was killed in a fall at Sha Tin and Philippe Paquet, a French jockey, sustained injuries that ended his career.

Racing, page 31



Prison worker is held hostage

A prison auxiliary was being held hostage last night by two prisoners armed with a homemade knife in the top security Whitemoor prison (Richard Ford writes).

Negotiators and extra prison officers were drafted into the jail in March, Cambridgeshire. The prison holds some of the most dangerous prisoners in the country. The prisoners involved in the incident which started at noon yesterday are not linked to the IRA. Whitemoor houses almost 120 category A inmates, including 36 who are classified as high risk.

Kasparov beaten by a computer

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FIRST blood in the chess match between a computer and Garry Kasparov, the world champion, went to the machine. Against expectations, IBM's rapier-quick Deep Blue computer won the first of six scheduled matches, to whoops of joy from computer programmers.

Kasparov, who had been tipped to win, was reported to be in a gloom after resigning on the 37th move and he left the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, without a word. This was in contrast to the reaction from the IBM computer experts who, unschooled in the hushed customs of the chess hall, leapt from their seats, cheering, to hug one another when the champion ceded defeat.

The result was said to be the first time a computer has beaten man at chess under championship-style conditions (as opposed to speed games). During the game Kasparov appeared to lose his concentration. Often so calm and confident against human

opponents, he frowned as the computer disrupted his pawns and speedily deployed the Sicilian defence.

Mankind's greatest chess player fiddled with his tie, held his head and removed his jacket. His psychological state may not have been helped by the presence, across the board, of a satisfied IBM technician who moved the white pieces at the command of Deep Blue.

The 32-node, 256-chip computer with a 128 gigabyte hard disk, developed over six years, relayed its moves via the Internet from its "home" in Yorktown Heights, New York. It can consider 200 million moves a second.

Before Saturday's match Kasparov had said defeat by Deep Blue "would threaten the existence of human control in such areas as art, literature or music" and he intended to defend "human dignity". The second game began last night. Kasparov has until Saturday to save humanity.

The match is on the Internet: <http://www.chess.ibm.park.org>

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Republican and loyalist movements ponder next move after IRA undermines peace process

Adams struggles to salvage party's political strategy

By NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

GERRY ADAMS is fighting to restore his credibility within the republican movement amid fears in London and Dublin that he has lost the confidence of the IRA. The Docklands bomb represents the failure of eight years' work by the Sinn Féin president to move the republican movement away from the gun and down the political path.

British and Irish ministers are now asking whether Mr Adams, 47, still has the ear of the IRA. The two Governments negotiated with Sinn Féin after the ceasefire on the understanding that the party had the IRA's backing. That assumption is now in doubt.

The strength of Mr Adams's position within the republican movement will hinge on how he fares during the ferocious internal debates that will be unleashed by the end of the ceasefire. Hardline opponents of Mr Adams will say that his promises when the truce was announced in August 1994 have come to nothing.

They will recall how Mr Adams convinced the IRA to call a ceasefire because he said that a formidable alliance, embracing Washington, Dublin and the Social Democratic and Labour Party, would put pressure on Britain and the



Adams: battle to restore credibility

Unionists to enter serious negotiations. Opponents will say the alliance led to President Clinton's senior adviser on Northern Ireland heading an international body which insisted that the IRA would have to disarm during talks.

As for the Unionists coming to the table, the hardliners will point out that the ceasefire led to the most serious attempt by Britain in a decade to hold elections in Northern Ireland so as to appease Unionists.

Mr Adams has been astute enough during the past 18 months to cover his tracks

against such criticisms. He will be able to reply that he never said the "unarmed strategy" would be easy. He will even be able to refer to an IRA briefing, drawn up before the ceasefire, which described the new strategy as "risky".

However, Mr Adams will be undermined by weaknesses which have dogged his leadership since he came to prominence after the last substantial ceasefire broke down in 1975. Despite his credentials as an IRA leader early in the Troubles, he has never won the wholehearted trust of the organisation. Many members believe that his instinct is to follow a political path, and he is regarded as an aloof man.

If he does hold on to the leadership of Sinn Féin, he is likely to try, over a long period, to nudge the movement back along a political path. This is not to say that Mr Adams is opposed in principle to republican violence. He is simply a sophisticated enough politician to realise that if 25 years of IRA violence did not achieve the movement's goals, more bloodshed is unlikely to be different. But the price of maintaining republican unity will be a tacit endorsement of the end of the ceasefire.

William Rees-Mogg, page 18
Leading article, and Letters, page 19



Martin McGuinness, a Sinn Féin leader, centre, at a march in Co Mayo yesterday to commemorate the death in 1976 of the hunger striker Frank Stagg.

Community leaders call for restraint

LOYALIST politicians said yesterday that they would try to ensure that Protestant paramilitaries maintained their ceasefire in spite of the IRA's decision to resume its terrorist campaign (Nicholas Watt writes).

Amid fears that loyalists would attack Dublin if they resumed violence, their leaders appealed for calm. Billy Hutchinson, of the Progressive Unionist Party, the political wing of the Ulster Volunteer Force, described violence as a "cul-de-sac" and

urged restraint within his community. He said: "It is in no one's interest to follow republicanism to the dark pre-ceasefire days."

Observers in Northern Ireland expect the loyalists not to retaliate if the IRA restricts its campaign to the mainland. However, a prolonged IRA campaign would make it hard for moderate loyalists to hold back the hardliners, who are itching for a return to "war". If

the IRA extends its campaign to Northern Ireland, there would be a resumption of sectarian violence.

Mr Hutchinson wrote in the Dublin *Sunday Tribune*: "If indeed republicanism is intent on a prolonged campaign on the mainland in an attempt to force the British Government to coerce the Unionist people, ignoring the principle of consent, this presents extreme dangers for peace within

Northern Ireland and indeed the Republic of Ireland."

Thirty-three people were killed in May 1974 in a series of bomb attacks in Dublin and Monaghan town.

Gusty Spence who re-established the modern UVF in 1966, echoed Mr Hutchinson's appeal for calm. Mr Spence, who read the loyalist ceasefire statement in 1994, said: "The Unionists have suffered 25 years of bombing without giving in... I am hopeful that the loyalist paramilitaries will not be provoked."

Police defend response to calls

SCOTLAND YARD defended its efforts to clear people from the area of the bomb attack after criticism yesterday that its advice had been confusing and contradictory.

The Metropolitan Police said that 80,000 people were in the area of Canary Wharf and South Quay in London's Docklands when the IRA issued a series of warnings that the ceasefire was to end with an attack in the capital.

It said that the calls were imprecise as to the location and timing of the attack. The police said that, faced with the risk of ordering an evacuation of tens of thousands of people on to the streets, officers ordered people to remain in buildings and cleared only South Quay station on the Docklands Light Rail.

Although the Metropolitan Police received its first warning of the bomb at 17.43, one hour and 18 minutes before the explosion, some people were still wandering around the area a few minutes before the blast. The chronology of events was:

■ 17.30pm: a number of telephone calls, bearing a recognised IRA code and warning of a bomb, are received by media organisations. Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, says the warnings gave South Quay as the potential target.

■ 17.41pm: London Fire Brigade receives coded call warning of bomb in the South Quay area.

■ 17.43pm: warning to fire brigade passed to the Metropolitan Police.

■ 17.45pm: call to Irish News newspaper in Belfast warns of bomb at South Quay station. Warning passed to the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Belfast.

■ 17.45: Irish state broadcasting organisation, RTE, receives call warning that the ceasefire is over. About the same time Metropolitan Police contacts buildings in Docklands warning staff to remain inside. Police begin to cord off the area. Explosives officers sent to the scene.

■ 17.55: evacuation of Docklands Light Rail begins.

■ 18.01: RTE news makes no mention of end of ceasefire.

■ 18.30: call to RTE journalist saying the earlier "end of ceasefire message" was genuine.

■ 18.50: John Bruton cuts short an engagement to return to government buildings in Dublin after being told ceasefire ending.

■ 18.58: RTE broadcasts "ceasefire over".

■ 19.01: bomb explodes.

By ALAN HAMILTON

FOR the past year, you could almost have mistaken Belfast for Leicester or Hull, or any other normal British provincial city. But in the past 48 hours, the signs have returned, small but depressingly significant, that normality may yet be a frail flower.

British troops, confined to barracks for almost a year, were back on the streets yesterday, although in such small numbers that an extensive search of the city discovered only one patrol, man-

ning the hastily restored road block and checkpoint on the main road from Aldergrove airport to the city. But the soldiers had forsaken their berets for steel helmets, and their handguns for Heckler and Koch automatic rifles.

Security sources said, however, that many of the 16,500 troops remaining in the Province had been quietly moved from barracks and billeted in several of the city's still massively fortified police stations.

The RUC, which spent most of the 17-month ceasefire acting like a normal force, patrol-

ling in cars marked "Police", has brought out its armoured Land Rovers. Officers have been issued with rifles and those on patrol are wearing their 12lb flak jackets again.

On Saturday, the RUC put a substantial presence on the city streets, but by yesterday that presence had become so discreet that anyone in the city centre wanting to ask the time would have been hard-pressed to find a policeman. There are no road blocks

within Belfast: even the steel gates that used to shut off the Falls Road like a medieval city curfew at nightfall remain open and unmanoeuvred.

Further down the Falls, a modest planting of fresh Irish tricolours fluttered from lamp posts and hoardings. Locals said they had not been there on Friday. Outside the heavily protected Sinn Féin headquarters, the large hoarding demanding "All Party Talks Now", looked distinctly faded

and weather-beaten. On the nearby Unity Flats, freshly painted graffiti, signed by the provisional IRA, proclaimed: "Either ballot or gun, Our Day Will Come."

"It's as well you didn't come here on Friday night," a woman in a local newsagents said. "There were a lot of men hanging about the Sinn Féin office in dark glasses you wouldn't want to stop and have a conversation with." Throughout the city, the expressions concerning Friday's bomb were of dismay and disgust, with a fear-induced

disbelief that Belfast could return to the dark ages of a *sinister* civil war. "It's the little things as much as anything that count about peace, like being able to go into a supermarket without being searched," is a frequently offered opinion.

"The nationalists would have done their cause a lot more good if they'd given a decent warning that the ceasefire was over," a taxi driver in the Protestant Shankill area said. "Gerry Adams is finished as a credible politician. You'll see more

of (Martin) McGuinness now, and he's a hard man." Belfast is desperate that its period of normality should not be a brief interlude, and the reasons are largely economic. The city has seen such a blossoming of shops and restaurants that it draws shoppers and trippers from all over Ireland. Dublinois with money to spend flock north in substantial numbers out of sheer curiosity. Sainsbury and Tesco both have plans to build supermarkets. All that may be lost if confidence crumbles.

Office workers will head for work as usual

By ERIC REGULY
AND EMMA WILKINS

THE insurance industry has estimated that the damage caused by the Docklands bomb blast will range from £75 million to £150 million and is likely to force up the premiums paid by corporations for terrorism cover.

Office workers at many companies on the Isle of Dogs have been told to turn up for work as usual this morning, as businesses affected by the bomb worked throughout the weekend to find new headquarters. The explosion has made more than one million square feet of office space unusable.

The London Docklands Development Corporation said that six buildings, equivalent to between 10 and 15 per cent of the total office space on the Isle of Dogs, were badly damaged. The South Quay Plaza complex was hardest hit, along with the Midland Bank building opposite.

Thomas Howell Group, the loss adjuster appointed by the insurance companies, made the loss estimate after visiting the outer area of damage.

Tony Baker, deputy director of the Association of British Insurers, said the bill for damage could exceed £150 million if many tenants had "business-interruption" insurance.

The magazine *Property Week* is now working from the first floor above the Dockmaster wine bar on West India Quay, west of the bomb site.

Three buildings which were most seriously damaged by the blast housed the offices of the Radio Communications Agency, a government agency, the Builder Group (publishers of *Property Week*), Franklin Mint, an American mail-order company, and a branch of the Midland Bank. *Police Review* is also produced in South Quay Plaza. Thames Water owns laboratories near the site of the explosion.

The 400 employees of the Radio Communications Agency will move to offices of the Department of Trade and Industry in Buckingham Palace Road, central London. The agency's work will be redistributed to regional offices for a few days while staff settle into their temporary accommodation. The agency's office, which was seriously damaged in the blast, will take up to 12 months to repair. A few members of staff have been told to stay at home today.

The newly homeless businesses were ringing their employees yesterday using a "cascade" system. Each director is given five people to ring, who then in turn ring five people each until the entire workforce has been contacted. The process usually takes just a few hours.

The Docklands Light Rail is already running, as far as Canary Wharf and buses will take travellers to all stations further south, including South Quay.

The duty manager of the Britannia International Hotel, on Marsh Wall, a few hundred yards from the bomb site, declined to say if any guests had checked out or cancelled their bookings for next week. "We have lost a few windows, but fortunately no one was injured. Our only problem at the moment is getting people in and out of the police cordon."

Bernard Harty, chief executive of the Corporation of London, does not think the bomb attack will stop foreign companies from moving to London. "What happened on Friday is not a UK or a London problem," he said. "Terrorism has happened in New York, Paris, Tokyo and Frankfurt... Businesses can move around, but trouble is sure to follow them."

He noted that most of the businesses damaged by the Bishopsgate bomb, which was also set off on a Friday, were back on the job by the Monday, after new office space was found and computer systems restored.



Mayhew: peace process not terminally injured.

Bruton

Continued from page 1

ed his energies on an attempt to pressure Sinn Féin into pursuing the IRA to restore its ceasefire. His hopes rose when Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, said the IRA "was open to persuasion".

Rutting out ministerial contact with Sinn Féin until the IRA renounces violence. Mr Bruton declared: "We are not going to get ourselves in a position wherein we negotiate under duress, where we're having a meeting with somebody and a bomb goes off in the middle of the meeting... Democrats can't work like that."

Mr Adams said: "What is the point of going to the IRA unless I am able to go with a persuasive argument? The IRA is open to persuasion. We wouldn't have had a cessation if they hadn't been open to persuasion."

His comments contrasted markedly with a hard-line speech by Martin McGuinness, Sinn Féin's chief negotiator.

Addressing a Sinn Féin rally in Ballina, Co Mayo, he described the present position as "grave and serious" and added: "We have talked until we are blue in the face."

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'We have lost a brother, a son and a family friend. We hope that these losses are not in vain'

Newsagent's family voices support for the peace process

By Emma Wilkins

THE family of a newsagent killed in the IRA bombing spoke out yesterday to condemn violence and defend the peace process. Inan Ul-Haq Bashir, 22, whose body was recovered from the wreckage in Docklands, east London, 22 hours after the explosion, took the full force of the blast in his newspaper shop.

Mr Bashir's family said in a statement issued via police last night: "We have lost a brother, a son and a family friend. We hope that these losses are not in vain."

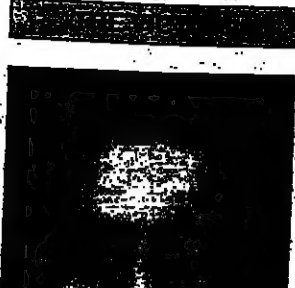
The family, who live in Streatham, southwest London, asked Inspector Paul Riddon to read the statement on their behalf. He said: "They would like to condemn the bombing. They wish to voice their support for the elected Government of this country and they hope the peace process continues."

John Jeffries, 31, Mr Bashir's assistant, also died in the bombing. Mr Jeffries, from Bromley, Kent, had dreamt of becoming a musician. His father, John, 68, a retired carpenter, spoke of his anger at the murder of his son: "He is my only child and since his mum died, he's all I've got. If I could take a gun to Gerry Adams and his mob, I would blow them away."

Mr Jeffries had tried in vain to find his son after the blast on Friday evening. "I went to Canary Wharf to see if he was on the list of casualties but he wasn't."

More than 100 people were injured in the explosion at 7.01pm, just as office workers were leaving for the weekend. Five victims were still in hospital last night, including a 55-year-old Moroccan man who is critically ill.

Zaoui Berreaz, who was employed to clean at the Midland Bank, suffered serious head injuries and is under sedation at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, east London. Mr Berreaz was in his car near the centre of the blast at South Quay. His son,



Killed: Inan Ul-Haq Bashir and John Jeffries



Parid, 17, who was injured by flying glass, was recovering in another ward at the same hospital. Mr Berreaz's wife Jamma spent yesterday at the hospital.

The Royal London Hospital said: "Mr Berreaz is in intensive care and very critical. He's stable but his injuries, mainly to his head and face, are extensive and substantial. The family are very distressed. They have been with him continuously."

A 25-year-old woman, who was hit in the face by flying glass, was recovering well after surgery to her right eye at St Bartholomew's Hospital, east London, on Saturday. Barbara Osei, a cleaner, will

be scarred but doctors hope that her sight has been saved. Santanita Herbert, 17, who is eight months pregnant, was sent home from hospital after ultrasound scans showed that her baby had been unharmed by the blast.

Tony Sharp, 34, an office worker, was recovering in hospital yesterday from injuries caused when his computer exploded in his face. Mr Sharp had been evacuated from his office almost next door to the site of the blast, but was told to return half an hour before the bomb went off. "The office security man told us to go back in, we thought it was a false alarm," he said.

Mr Sharp, from Blackheath, southeast London, was standing next to his colleague Neville Walker, 31, when the bomb exploded. "We fell down, then got up and rushed out the fire exit. I could feel my face covered in blood and didn't know what state I was in. It was pandemonium," he said.

Despite his injuries, which include a broken nose, glass in his eye and scarring down the left side of his body, Mr Sharp said: "I feel I am one of the lucky ones. I want to say to the families of people lost that I hope everything will turn out OK in the end."

Most of the injuries were caused by flying glass. Dr Austin Smith, senior surgical registrar at the Royal London Hospital, said: "We regularly deal with glass injuries caused by traffic accidents and fights but in this case it was the high velocity of missiles from the blast which has created disfiguring scars on their faces. Patients have suffered facial fractures and chest injuries," he said.

Father Peter Allen, preaching in the parish church of John Jeffries, who died in Friday's bombing, also urged forgiveness of his killers. It was a theme echoed in hundreds of pulpits across the country. The Bishop of London, the Right Rev. Richard Chartres, said prayers for the dead and the injured at a private service in the Royal London Hospital's chapel.

The bishop challenged Sim Fain to condemn the bombing. He said the blast had united Londoners and peace-makers everywhere against such a senseless tragedy.

Hundreds picked their way through debris left by the bombing to attend two special services — one Anglican, the other Roman Catholic — at St Luke's Church on the Barkantine Estate on the Isle of Dogs, where they heard sermons on healing the wounds left by the atrocity. The Rev Christopher Owens set up a telephone helpline and threw open the doors of the church to those distressed by the explosion.

Colin Parry, whose 12-year-old son Tim was killed by an IRA bomb in March 1993, led a vigil of about 100 people in Warrington town centre. He said: "The news is bleak and things look bleak but as long as the process carries on there is hope."



Commander Grieve, new head of Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch, surveys the destruction at South Quay in the London Docklands

Prepared for the worst and hoping for the best

By Stewart Tindler

ANTI-TERRORIST CHIEF

THE new head of Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch had a baptism of fire on Friday. Commander John Grieve, who was due to take up his post today, had barely finished his last briefings with the Security Service when the bombers struck. Within hours he was at South Quay on the Isle of Dogs.

Mr Grieve, 49, who was born in the North East, has been a policeman for 30 years, with experience in the Flying Squad, drug squads and east Lon-

don. Until last week he was Scotland Yard's director of intelligence, reorganising information retrieval and developing a new computer system.

He now has at his command 97 officers and civilian experts as well as former members of the Anti-Terrorist Branch who can be called from other police work. The branch is recognised worldwide for its expertise in post-attack investigations. Officers advised the New York police after the World

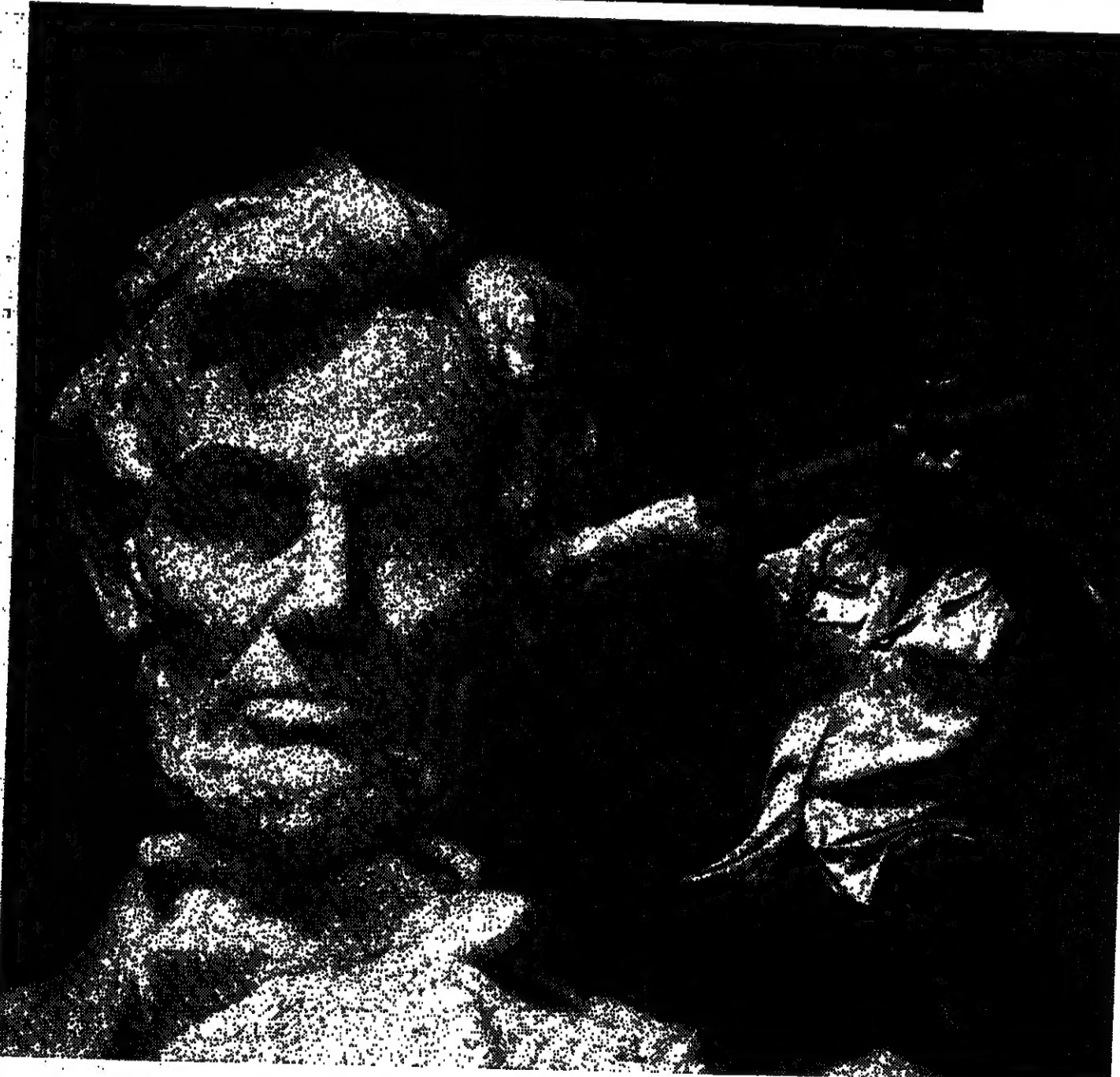
Trade Centre attacks. The remit of the unit is to investigate attacks and not to prepare intelligence material. That work is led by MI5 and Special Branch officers on both sides of the Irish Sea.

The branch was recently slimmed down through restructuring and retirements but no long-term decisions have been taken about its future. Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and his

senior officers decided to wait and see how well the ceasefire held.

Unusually, for a detective outside fiction, Mr Grieve has distinctive tastes. He knows a lot about Chinese philosophy, is a good hand at miniature water-colours, and is fond — like Inspector Morse — of poetry and quotation. When his new job was announced he quoted from a speech by Seamus Heaney, the Irish Nobel Prize winner: "By its very nature the atrocious is always with us. We should always be prepared for the worst and hope for the best."

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Tony Sharp, who was evacuated from his office but was told to return half an hour before the blast

I'm no hero, says officer who spotted bomb lorry

By Russell Jenkins

THE police constable who identified the vehicle carrying the IRA bomb as suspect and helped to evacuate hundreds of people, spoke yesterday of the moment when he thought he was going to die.

PC Roger de Graaf, 30, who is based at Limehouse police station in east London, was checking that everybody had left the area around South Quay railway station when the bomb exploded.

The force of the blast knocked him off his feet and he curled up in a fetal position. In the immediate aftermath, PC de Graaf, from Woodford, Essex, looked up to see a car careering towards him. It came to a halt with the bumper touching his back.

The policeman needed five internal stitches and a dozen external stitches to his left eye and he suffered extensive bruising. He insists that he is no hero: "I have done nothing heroic, nothing special. I'm just the one who made the checks on the vehicle and who has a very scratched face."

After PC de Graaf spotted the vehicle he continued clearing people from the area and had almost finished when he heard a "rumble and what felt



De Graaf, knocked off his feet by the blast

like a 200mph wind" rushing past his ears.

"I was knocked off my feet and I curled up like a ball," he said. "I thought, 'I'm going to die now, my time is up.' I looked around, there was a car coming at me, an automatic stuck in gear. The driver was in shock. I thought, 'I've survived the bomb, I'm going to get run over now.' I managed to roll over and the car stopped as its bumper hit my back."

PC de Graaf, the driver and other colleagues, sheltered from the shower of glass, masonry and twisted metal in a concrete doorway. Afterwards, he helped to ferry injured colleagues and civilians to the hospital before seeking treatment for himself.

He found time to borrow a mobile telephone and call his pregnant wife at his father's home in Woodford to reassure her that he was safe. The couple have a five-month-old daughter.

Earlier, PC de Graaf, who has been in the Metropolitan force for seven years, had learnt that he had passed his examination to become a sergeant. Then he and a colleague were diverted to the terminal to investigate a bomb alert in the area.

"We checked around the locality as best we could. Most of the cars at this point had gone," he said. "We became aware of this vehicle, we were actually all sort of standing next to it, we said 'Maybe this one shouldn't be here.'"

"We did some checks on it, the results of those checks aroused our suspicions a bit more. At that point we decided if it was going to be anything, that was going to be the vehicle."



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Doctors describe 'tip-toe' phenomenon in people hit by a million volts during storm

Record lightning strike left strange marks on skin

By JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

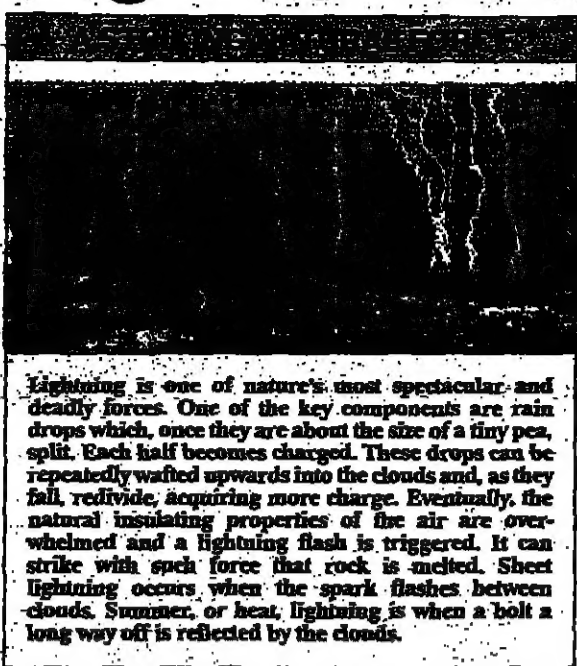
VICTIMS of the world's biggest multiple lightning strike were left with odd skin markings and have shown strange psychological effects since they were injured five months ago.

Seventeen people were hit during a pre-season football tournament at Aylesford, Kent. Fourteen of the group were traced by St Andrew's Hospital in Billericay, Essex, the biggest burns unit in Britain. Details of their widely differing injuries were presented to an international meeting in Hong Kong on Saturday.

Jim Frame, consultant plastic surgeon at St Andrew's, said: "It was just like *Star Wars* — whoosh — and their football kit evaporated. There was nothing left."

Mr Frame said some of those hit walked away while others suffered heart attacks and had to be resuscitated on the pitch. Many had burns and some had damage to their eyes and difficulty walking. Some later suffered panic attacks, mood swings and depression and one became psychotic. "It is like receiving a huge dose of ECT [electroconvulsive therapy] when a major shock goes through the brain."

Among the curious symptoms the medical team had found were miniature haemorrhages on the ends of the



Lightning is one of nature's most spectacular and deadly forces. One of the key components are rain drops which, once they are about the size of a tiny pea, split. Each half becomes charged. These drops can be repeatedly washed upwards into the clouds and, as they fall, redouble, acquiring more charge. Eventually, the natural insulating properties of the air are overwhelmed and a lightning flash is triggered. It can strike with such force that rock is melted. Sheet lightning occurs when the spark flashes between clouds. Summer, or heat, lightning is when a bolt a long way off is reflected by the clouds.

toes of those caught in the strike, which they named the 'tip-toe' sign. "It is the first time that has been described," Mr Frame said.

Chris and Jackie Hunt and their two sons had their clothes burnt off their backs and suffered a temporary personality change as one million volts of electricity passed through their bodies.

Speaking for the first time since the incident, Mr Hunt, who coaches a local boys' football team, said: "There

was a sudden downpour. The referee told us to run for shelter so we made for the edge of the pitch near a tree where our kit was. I was holding a large fishing umbrella and the lightning struck the top of it. It travelled through me to the ground and because there was a lot of water on the ground everyone got hit."

Mr Hunt, 35, a papermill engineer, said he felt locked to the ground and then felt himself falling. He was uncon-

scious for 20 minutes. Mrs Hunt, 36, and their son Thomas, 9, went stiff and fell to the ground and eight-year-old son Matthew had a heart attack. He had 17 per cent burns to his back where his football kit had melted.

All the family had small burn holes in the soles of their feet. Mr Hunt's hands, where he had been holding the umbrella, were unhurt. Mrs Hunt was paralysed from the waist down for two hours after the strike and had curious symmetrical marks on the skin beneath each breast, possibly because she was wearing an underwired bra.

Jill Webb, a junior doctor at St Andrew's who studied the effects of the strike on the family, said lightning tended to travel across the surface of the body, rather than through it. "That is why people don't get killed. Only if it breaches the skin can it cause internal damage, burning muscle and internal organs."

About five people a year are struck by lightning in Britain. Dr Webb said the best advice in a thunderstorm was to move away from a high point and lie down. "You don't want to be the tallest object in the area," she said.

The safest place to be is inside a car, sitting away from the sides so the charge travels over the surface and through the tyres to the ground. Tyres are good conductors, especially on wet roads.



Chris and Jackie Hunt with their sons Thomas and Matthew, holding the remains of the kit he was wearing when the family sheltered under an umbrella

Lottery medical cash may be capped

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE organisation that hands out National Lottery cash to good causes is considering imposing a £500,000 cap on the amount it gives to medical charities.

The Campaign for Cancer Research said yesterday that the proposal by the National Lottery Charities Board could jeopardise many life-saving medical research projects desperate for cash.

Jackie McDougall, director of appeals for the campaign, said it was galling for the medical community to see multimillion-pound grants going to arts, heritage and sports projects, knowing that they could only hope to receive a fraction of that amount.

Paul Hensby, director of communications for the board, said that no firm decision had been taken.

"The reasoning behind this sort of policy, were it to be passed, would be that there is only a finite amount of money available. The next round of grants encompasses health care and disability as well as medical research. To have large amounts going to medical research would mean that there is less money for the others," he said.

£15 million from the lottery jackpot on Saturday. The second prize was shared by 30 tickets, each claiming £95,326, and 1,745 tickets won £1,024.

Winning numbers, page 22

Army agrees to run 'boot camp' for young offenders

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

TEENAGE offenders in Britain's first two boot camps will wear uniforms under proposals for Army-style discipline and training. One is to be set up within the grounds of the Army "glasshouse" at Colchester and up to 30 young men will be under the control of military staff from June.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has overcome reservations within the Ministry of Defence about his plan to put young offenders in the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester, Essex, and will announce the details shortly. However, plans for the Army to be allowed to recruit among the young offenders attending the camp have been abandoned.

Mr Howard has won the support of Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, for the creation of the camp. It is understood that part of the training centre will be de-

clared a young offender institution, to be operated under civilian law.

The camp at Colchester, and another unit, for 60 men, at Thorn Cross, near Warrington in Cheshire, will open this year as part of Mr Howard's drive to provide a tougher regime than at existing young offender institutions. Offenders sent to the units will be required to wear uniforms but will be allowed to put on private clothing as a privilege to be earned by good behaviour. "Uniforms are part and parcel of the package. It will be a strict regime, run by the military."

The camp at Colchester will be in a wing separate from the rest of the centre and offenders will be held under civilian law rather than Queen's Regulations. Thirty young men, aged 17 to 21, will be subject to a strict military-style regime, in-

cluding marching to step when they move around the camp, addressing instructors as "sir" and undertaking physical training.

Under plans being drawn up in Whitehall, the day at Colchester will begin at dawn, with an 8.15am parade followed by training in subjects such as carpentry. There will be later parades, with lights out at 10pm.

The regime at the camp in Thorn Cross will be more relaxed, and will emphasise training, education, addressing offending behaviour and improving social skills rather than US-style physical exercises and barrack-room type instructions. Ministers want to be able to compare the differing regimes, to see what works best for improving the behaviour of young men and whether the tougher approach can turn them from criminal behaviour.

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Computer shows Bard had help with play

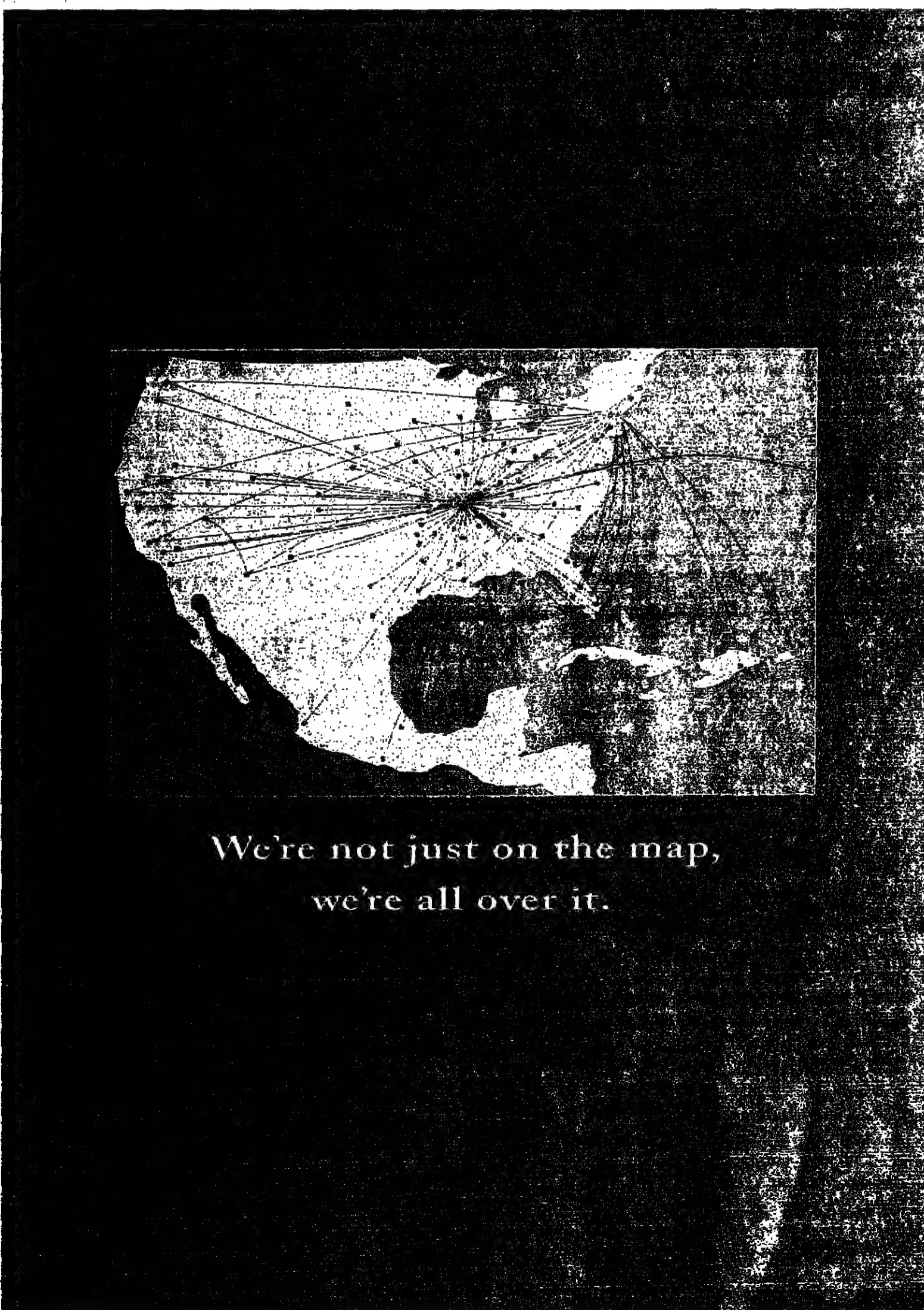
By NICK NUTTALL

A JACOBAN play attributed to Shakespeare was also the work of another playwright, British scientists said yesterday. The researchers used a computer to scan *Two Noble Kinsmen*, looking for subtle differences in the text.

They have confirmed academics' suspicions that the work, first performed in about 1613 and staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1986, was a collaboration between Shakespeare and John Fletcher, who took over as chief dramatist for Shakespeare's King's Men company. The authorship of *Two Noble Kinsmen* has long been disputed.

The researchers, Dr Robert Matthews and Professor David Lowe of Aston University, programmed the computer to recognise key words from undisputed works by Fletcher and undisputed works by Shakespeare. It took weeks to "train" the computer to look for the frequency and ratio with which five words — of, the, are, no, and in — appeared in around 50,000 words of the play.

The computer judged that the first and last acts were the work of Shakespeare while the second act appears to be Fletcher's. The other two acts were jointly penned, the scientists claim. The findings, published in *Computers and the Humanities*, have been backed by Dr Tom McCreham, an independent Shakespeare scholar.



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Maths master unearths the puzzles that baffled Alice



Carroll: mixed disciplines of mathematics and humour

By PETER FOSTER

A SERIES of baffling puzzles and brain-teasers invented by Lewis Carroll to amuse Victorian children and Oxford mathematics dons has been unearthed and collected for publication by a school inspector. Edward Wakeling, who is also a Carroll scholar, says that Carroll intended to publish a book of puzzles but the demands of more serious writing prevented him from doing so.

The puzzles, which range from children's riddles to more abstract logic problems, have been gathered from unpublished letters, Victorian magazines and the family archive of Bartholomew "Bart" Price, Carroll's maternal

tutor at Christ Church, Oxford. The conundrums were used by Carroll, himself a Christ Church mathematics don, to test the wits of colleagues, undergraduates and friends such as Alice Liddell, at whose request he wrote *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Carroll, whose real name was Charles Dodgson, used this problem to test the logic of fresh-faced students: *If a cat kills a rat in a minute, how long would it be killing 60,000 rats?*

Students who calculated the answer by complex multiplication sums would discover, to their dismay, that in Lewis Carroll's opinion "the rats would more than likely kill the cat".

Professor Morton Cohen, the

author of a biography of Carroll, said: "The puzzles contain the humour and whimsy so typical of Dodgson. He wanted children and students to catch on and laugh with him." This thought is echoed by Mr. Wakeling, a professional judge of mathematics teachers, who believes that Carroll, by trying to make mathematics fun and enjoyable, was way ahead of his time. To entertain children, Carroll invented a game called Doublets, first published in *Vanity Fair* magazine in 1879 and later in a booklet. The object was to link two words through a chain of other words, changing one letter each step of the way. The person who uses the smallest number of links

is the winner. The problem is posed in the form of a sentence such as "Make flour into bread". The solution, in five steps, runs: Flour-floor-flood-blood-brood-bread. Other doublets set by Carroll are "Prove pity to be good", "Evolve man from ape" and "Turn witch into fairy". Even dinner guests would not escape Carroll's passion for puzzles. Viscount Simon, an undergraduate at Wadham College, Oxford, and a fellow of All Souls, later recalled a problem about two tumblers: "Take two tumblers, one of which contains 50 spoonfuls of pure brandy and the other 50 spoonfuls of pure water. Take from the first of these one spoonful of brandy and transfer

it without spilling into the second tumbler and stir it up. Then take a spoonful of the mixture and transfer it back without spilling to the first tumbler." Carroll's question was: "If you consider the whole transaction, has more brandy been transferred from the first tumbler to the second, or more water from the second to the first?" (Answer at end of article.)

Mavis Bates, who has written two books on Lewis Carroll, said: "The Alice books did not just come to Dodgson/Carroll out of the blue. Wit and invention ran through everything that Carroll did, including mathematics. These days I think he would have had great fun trying to work out a

solution to the National Lottery." When Carroll died in 1898 "Bart" Price, with whom Carroll had shared many of his puzzles, wrote of his pupil and friend: "I was pleased to read yesterday in *The Times* newspaper the kindly obituary notice perfectly just and true appreciative, as it should be, as to the unusual combination of deep mathematical ability and taste with the genius that led to the writing of *Alice's Adventures*."

Rediscovered Lewis Carroll Puzzles, edited by Edward Wakeling, will be published in April by Constable and Constable. The tumbler's The amount of brandy or water transferred is the same in each case.

Academics say undergraduates are under-read

Classic novels are a closed book to A-level students

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

LEADING academics said yesterday that English A-level syllabuses which allowed schools to avoid virtually all pre-20th century literature were creating alarming gaps in the reading of students arriving at university.

Professor Martin Dodsworth, who is chairing the official assessment of university research in English, called for an A-level review to revive the study of works from the 17th and 18th centuries in particular. Apart from the obligatory Shakespeare play, many students have read nothing written earlier than

the mid-19th century. Other English dons supported Professor Dodsworth, some arguing that the malaise has spread to university courses. Dr Roger Knight, the chairman of the English Association, said modular courses left undergraduates scratching the surface of classic works.

The debate over whether to include a canon of literature for the national curriculum split academics and teachers. Government advisers settled on a compromise which left schools to draw from lists of authors to include poetry, prose and drama from previous centuries. At A level, however, the selection of texts

is in the hands of the examination boards. Virtually all syllabuses include pre-20th century writers, including Shakespeare, but increasing flexibility in the examination gives schools the option of concentrating on modern works.

Professor Dodsworth, a former chairman of the English Association who lectures at Royal Holloway College, University of London, said: "We find that quite promising applicants have read nothing earlier than Thomas Hardy, and that is not good enough in the language. I am not saying that 20th century texts are worthless, but their very accessibility means that students are

not being stretched and are getting no sense of the historical range of writing." Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy* or Henry Fielding's *Joseph Andrews* were among the 18th century classic novels Professor Dodsworth feared were no longer being read.

"Even Jane Austen, for all her exposure on television, does not feature as frequently as before," Dr Knight said. The English Association was increasingly concerned about the effect of modular degrees, as well as A levels, and was likely to devote a conference to the issue next year. Graduates he had interviewed for teacher-training places at Leicester University had studied few authors in depth.

Dr Knight said: "It is ironic that there has been an attempt to reassert the place of classic works through the national curriculum, but there are these gaps among the older specialist clientele. I think there is general agreement among academics that there is a serious problem."

However, Anne Barnes, the Chief Executive of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said she believed schools and examination boards were providing balanced courses at A level. "The 18th century novels may be an exception because they require a blend of maturity and time that is easier to find at university, but the trend is no longer just towards modern literature."

Ms Barnes said: "A-level courses vary enormously, and some allow schools and colleges to go for the most popular texts, which tend to be modern. But the Brontës, for example, are read all the way through school, and most students are getting a balanced perspective of literature, starting with Chaucer."



An adult seahorse at the Sea Life Centre, Weymouth and, below, one of the babies: less than an inch long

Marine experts celebrate the birth of an inch-long miracle

MARINE experts are celebrating the world's first successful breeding of seahorses in captivity. After months of anxious waiting, aquarists in Weymouth, Dorset, discovered hundreds of miniature seahorses being born in their specially designed breeding tanks.

The births are the latest development in a chain of events which have led to the return of the tiny creatures to British waters after an absence of nearly a century. The proud parents are among seven seahorses caught in the

nets of local fishermen in the space of a few weeks last year. They were split between the Sea Life Centre in Weymouth, Dorset, and the Seahorse Aquarium in Exeter, Devon, and the youngsters were born at both sites within hours of each other.

A previous attempt was made in Holland, but the young all died within minutes of being born, and this is the first captive breeding programme involving the *Hippocampus ramulosus* family to succeed. It is the male seahorse which actually

carries the young after the female has laid its eggs in its partner's male's breeding pouch, where they slowly develop before emerging as tiny replicas of their parents.

Biologist Robin James, said: "Until about three years ago no seahorses had been recorded in British waters for decades. The plan now is to return half of the captive stock to the wild to boost the declining colony while the rest remain at the park to form a captive breeding nucleus for the future."



Archbishop says schools are cheating children

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of York called yesterday for a return to the basics of education. The results of recent national tests were "pretty depressing", said Dr David Hope. Children were being cheated of the education they deserved and of "any kind of worthwhile employment in the future".

In his first important policy statement since he succeeded Dr John Habgood at York last year, Dr Hope said education should have a clear moral and spiritual dimension.

Preaching at York Minster at a service to mark Education Sunday, Dr Hope said: "It was only at the beginning of this last week that the Chief Inspector of Schools drew attention to the fact that standards of pupil achievement are not what they should be,

either in primary or in our secondary schools." Dr Hope, who is visiting a school each week in his new diocese, and who visited 70 schools in his first two years as Bishop of London, is likely to speak soon on the subject in the House of Lords. He has been alarmed by the number of industrialists and businessmen who have told him that many school-leavers applying for jobs were unemployable.

Blame for poor standards was being apportioned variously to teachers, parents, governors, the Government and the Church. "The political parties vie with each other to the extent that education has become altogether too much a political football," he said.

He warned of the spectre of thousands of children emerg-

ing as unemployable, simply because they had been denied basic educational skills. All parties should abandon their war of words and "engage in a partnership of interest, irrespective of party or any other kind of dogma".

Dr Hope praised schools that had introduced covenants between parents, pupils and teachers, although unwritten agreements had always existed in schools. The Archbishop is also concerned at the large numbers of clergy who are relinquishing their traditional roles as chairmen of church school governors.

□ The February session of the General Synod, which opens at Church House, Westminster, today, will debate plans for a more efficient management structure for the Church.

American Association for the Advancement of Science

Ageing brings equality of the sexes when it comes to the brain drain

REPORTS FROM NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR, IN BALTIMORE

ALTHOUGH men's brains are larger than women's, they shrink almost three times as rapidly as they get older. By the age of 40, the part of a man's brain responsible for abstract reasoning and impulse control has shrunk to the same size as the brain of a woman of the same age.

The decline begins depressingly early. Dr Ruben Gur of the University of Pennsylvania told the meeting on Saturday. Even between the ages of 18 and 45, the more rapid loss of tissue from the male frontal lobe is apparent.

Men and women also respond differently to the changes. In men, the use of glucose in the brain — a

measure of how hard it is working — declines more slowly. In an apparent attempt to make up for declining brain volume, but women make no such compensatory efforts, which could have implications for longevity, Dr Gur said.

"Women seem to be able to reduce the rate of neuronal activity in proportion to the tissue that they lose, whereas men continue to overdrive their neurons," he said.

"Women live at least a decade longer than men, and part of the reason could be the reduced brain metabolism. If you overdrive cells you get cytotoxic [cell-killing] effects." Dr Gur used magnetic resonance imaging to measure the

brains of 24 women and 37 men, and positron emission tomography (PET) to study their glucose metabolism.

This showed that even when men relax, they do so in a different way from women. When Dr Gur's volunteers were asked to lie down and relax in the PET scanner for half an hour, men had much higher activity in the part of the brain controlling movement and aggression, whereas women's brains were more active in the part governing emotional responses such as body language, facial expressions and speech. Dr Gur's interpretation is that when relaxing, men activate those parts of the brain that serve

functions they do well, while women start thinking about other things, and not just the things they do well.

□ Mentally ill people are three to four times more likely to commit violent crimes, studies in New York and in Israel have shown. A similar study in Finland shows that schizophrenics are five times more likely to commit murder, or 15 times more likely if they are also alcoholics. But Dr Sheila Hodgins of the University of Montreal said that treatment programmes based on the courts were more likely to prevent violence than purely psychiatric-based.

Science briefing, page 14

Crude vaccine saves skin cancer patients

THE survival of two patients with advanced skin cancer has inspired an attempt to treat the disease with a vaccine. Dr Alexander Knuth, Professor of Medicine at the University of Mainz, told the meeting that both had advanced melanoma, which would have been expected to kill them within about a year.

They were treated with a crude vaccine made from cells of their own tumours and today, 19 years later in the case of one and 13 years later for the other, both are well. In melanoma, the immune system recognises the tumour cells as foreign, and tries to

destroy them. The original experiments were designed to boost the process in patients already showing an immune response. Initial results from trials of a more sophisticated vaccine are encouraging, with cancers regressing in three patients.

□ Diabetes could soon be controlled by six-monthly injections of cells from pigs, wrapped up inside tiny plastic capsules so that they do not provoke an immune response. Experiments with animals have shown an almost perfect control of the disease. The technique may prove useful in treating other illnesses.

Microwave ovens put signals in outer space

A SEARCH by radio telescope of three recently discovered planets has revealed no evidence of intelligent life.

Dr Dan Werthimer, an astronomer from the University of California at Berkeley, said that none of the planets, which are in orbit around distant stars, was emitting any unusual signals. "But absence of evidence is not evidence of absence of extraterrestrial civilisations," he told the meeting.

Dr Jill Tarter of the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California, said that a search of 200 stars in the southern sky had detected many "intel-

ligent" signals, but they all proved to be man-made, mainly from microwave ovens, and automatic garage doors.

After more than 20 years, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence has gone private, as NASA, the US space agency, is no longer prepared to support it. However, private donors are providing enough to extend the search. "So far we've examined only a few hundred stars," Kent Crollers of the SETI Institute said. "By the end of the next decade we'll have examined a million. There's a high probability we will succeed."

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Labour rallied for war on elitism

Blair swoops on disgraced peer to mock Tory elite

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR launched a scathing attack on the Conservatives yesterday as the party of privilege and ridicule the devotion to "a small Tory elite".

Addressing his party's local government and Europe conference in Birmingham, the Labour leader mocked attacks on his plans to banish hereditary peers from the House of Lords and invited Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, to study the antecedents of Lord Broomfield, jailed last week for a £4.5 million insurance swindle, before claiming that the country's democratic traditions were in jeopardy.

He said: "The first Lord Broomfield bought the title from

Lloyd George. The second Lord Broomfield was one of Britain's leading Nazi sympathisers. The third Lord Broomfield has just started five years for fraud. Is this really what made Britain great? Lord Broomfield not only voted for the poll tax, but spoke in favour of it and, in the course of his remarks, called for a crackdown on lawbreakers."

Mr Blair, who told his party it faced the fight of its life in the coming general election campaign, delivered his sternest warning yet of the dangers of complacency. He said that not a day went by without his MPs or members telling him that victory was assured. "I find this complacency chilling. Victory will not

come to us unaided. No one owes us power because we have been in opposition for 17 years. It is going to be the longest, toughest campaign of our lives."

The Labour leader seized on the collapse of the sale of the London, Tilbury and Southend rail line to a private bidder as another example of government unfairness. "The London to Tilbury privatisation has been derailed by fraud — not so much leaves on the line as thieves on the line," he said.

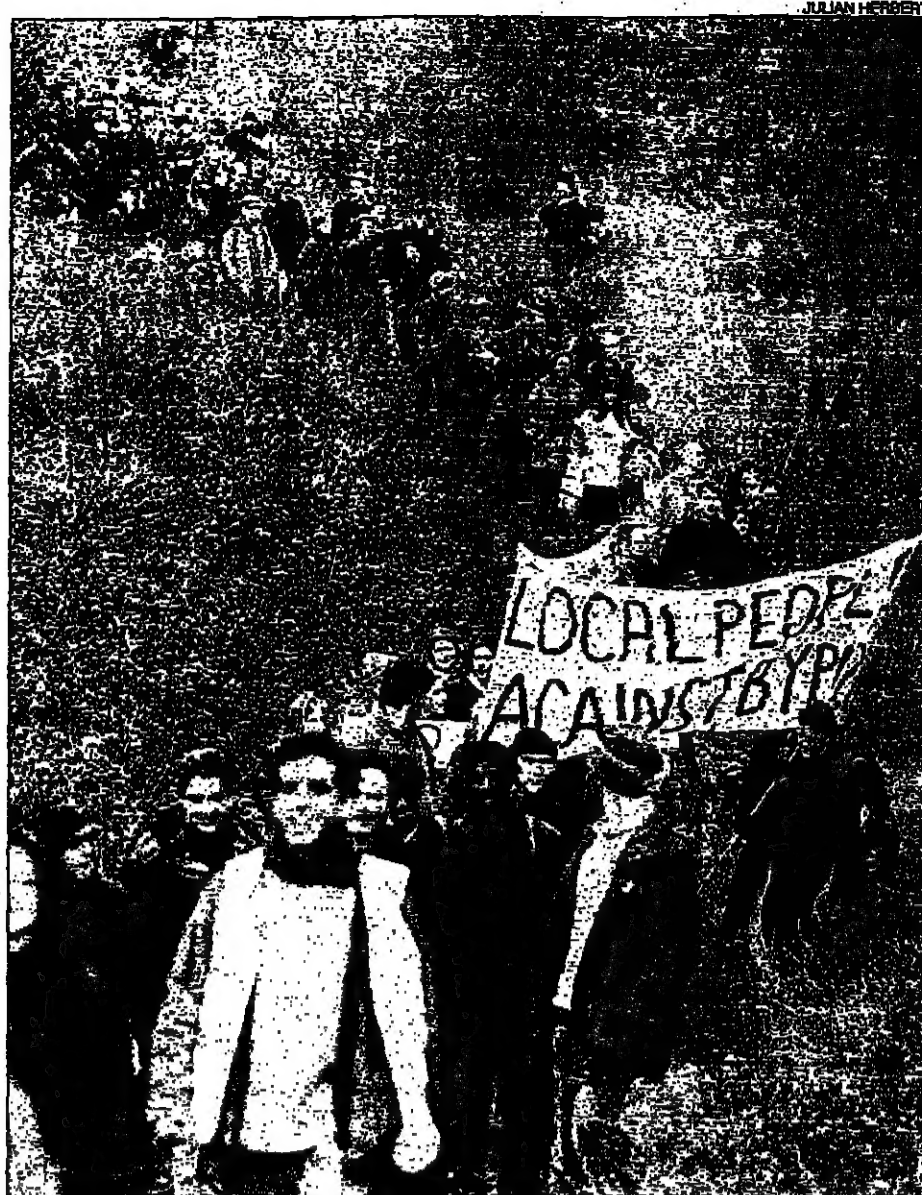
"The widespread chaos is all due to the delayed decision of John Major's Government. The Prime Minister assured us he won't be blown off course. So we can expect a new consortium to bid for the line — headed by Ronnie Biggs."

Mr Blair condemned the Government's decision to guarantee rises of only 2 per cent for nurses and claimed that its education, tax and pay policies were similarly designed to help only a minority.

The Labour leader painted a bleak picture of modern Britain as a divided nation, suffering from economic decline and social insecurity. "In the past, each generation was confident their children would do better than they did. Now we fear they won't. We worry about their schools. When they leave school, we worry about their jobs. When our parents retire, we worry about their pensions and when they are old whether their savings will be eaten up in nursing home care."

"The Tories can play the politics of fear, but day after day they are inflicting real fear on the people. In Britain today, parents lie awake at night scared about their children's future."

He said that after 17 years in power, the Tories had shown they were not up to the job. But if Labour could govern for a generation, it could transform educational standards, make a real attack on long-term unemployment, build homes and transport links and modernise the health service.



Some of the estimated 4,000 protesters marching on Snelmore Common yesterday

Thousands join peaceful protest march at Newbury

By A STAFF REPORTER

MORE than four thousand protesters turned out yesterday for a rally against the Newbury bypass. Friends of the Earth, which organised 40 coaches to transport demonstrators to Berkshire from around the country, claimed it was the biggest anti-road protest held in Britain.

The march took place along a two-mile stretch of woodland, heath and water meadows earmarked for the northern stretch of the proposed route through Snelmore Common. It ended with a mass rally where speakers, including local businessmen, were delayed for more than an hour as thousands of people, some escorted by mounted

police, gathered for the event. Members of the pro-bypass lobby decided against staging a rival demonstration. Mike James, joint president of the Newbury Society, said: "We did discuss it but decided it would be counter-productive."

Yesterday's protesters included television presenter Maggie Philbin, who lives near by, and Sean Blowers, star of the ITV series *London's Burning*. Miss Philbin, accompanied by her seven-year-old daughter Rose, said: "I felt I just couldn't sleep in my bed unless I got out there and said what I thought. I know Newbury has a desperate traffic problem but I don't want Newbury to be ten years

down the line with the same problem, having lost all this countryside."

A spokeswoman for Greenpeace, joint organiser of the rally, said: "The turnout has been incredible. We have had 3,000 people through the train station and thousands more are still on their way. This is the highest number of people we have ever had for an event of this nature."

Thames Valley Police estimated there were 4,000 people on the march, which took place peacefully. "We were very happy with the way it went. There were no arrests or scuffles at all," a spokesman said. "We had a low presence there and it worked very well."

Libraries attack Bottomley's call for cash from private sector

By IAN MURRAY

PLANS to involve the private sector in modernising Britain's library service are to be announced shortly by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary.

Mrs Bottomley wants to find extra cash to revive the service without dipping into the public purse. A Heritage Department think-tank is completing plans to let private firms compete to run different library services just as they now bid to empty dustbins.

The Government hopes this will improve efficiency and inject capital, while leaving the service democratically controlled by local authorities.

Libraries need money urgently, because, for many years, the service has been vulnerable to cuts when councils look to balance their budgets. Three quarters of library authorities had to make cuts this financial year and, with councils everywhere struggling to hold spending inside an even tighter spending cap, the year ahead is likely to be more difficult.

Year-by-year, funds have been nibbled away to the point where substantial capital expenditure is now needed to make libraries capable of meeting their statutory obligation to provide a "comprehensive and efficient service".

The Federation of Local Authority Chief Librarians calculates that £611 million is needed over the next five years just to bring libraries in England and Wales up to standard. It will cost a further £500 million to connect them to the information superhighway, which the Library Association insists is a necessity if libraries are to continue providing a comprehensive information service.

With the Government's squeeze on public spending, libraries have no chance of being granted anything like this. Their association has applied to the Millennium Fund for £90 million to set up the infrastructure and to fund projects for the Internet, that would not end the shortfall.

To the dismay of the Library Association, which speaks for public libraries, Mrs Bottomley has so far refused to allow money from the National Lottery to be used for libraries and has said that she means to involve the private sector more in providing services.

"All the experiments in contracting-out have showed there is no real gain," Ross Shimmion, the association's chief executive, said. "The doctrinal insistence on continued experimentation does not take into account the drain on time and money that such

There are 167 public library authorities in the United Kingdom (England 108; Wales 13; Scotland 41; Northern Ireland 5). There are 4,769 libraries, of which 685 are mobiles (England 3,622; Wales 358; Scotland 629; Northern Ireland 160). There are 39,207 service points in hospitals, prisons, old people's homes, and so on. There are 46 libraries open for more than 60 hours a week. Last year, £813 million was spent on library services at an average cost of 25p per head of population a week. The book-fund totalled £117 million — equivalent to £2 per head of population. Libraries earn £54 million a year in fines, fees and services. There are 25,169 library staff, including 7,414 professional librarians. Thirty per cent of the population visit a library once a fortnight. Libraries have a stock of about 132 million volumes, of which 33.5 million are on loan at any one time. The number of audio-visual items issued grew from 14 million to 31 million in the decade to 1992.

experiments make on an already very stretched system." He argues that contracting-out a council's library services will undermine co-operation between authorities and thus reduce the range of titles and facilities available. "The only way to which privatising can work is by cutting staff, reducing the number of titles and cutting opening hours."

Over the past decade, expenditure on library books has fallen by an average of 9 per cent against the book-price index, with book funds in London and the metropolitan districts down by a quarter.

Last year, Somerset spent nothing on books and was investigated by the National Heritage Department for failing to meet its statutory obligations. The southeast London borough of Lewisham closed two branches. This year Bury, Greater Manchester, may close all part-time branches and the school service.

The issue of books nationally decreased by 15 per cent through the 1980s. The association claims this is a result of cuts to opening hours and book funds. In England and Wales, there are now less than half the number of libraries open for at least 60 hours a week as there were in 1980.

Ex-minister may face new inquiry

By NICHOLAS WOOD

A FORMER minister may face a fresh investigation into allegations that he accepted free hospitality without declaring it to the Commons.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner on Standards in Public Life, is to be asked to study claims that Neil Hamilton, the former Corporate Affairs Minister, accepted undeclared hospitality worth thousands of pounds from US Tobacco.

The latest allegations have clouded Mr Hamilton's hopes of making a political comeback. He is standing for the leadership of the Tory backbench 92 Group in a ballot to be declared today.

Mr Hamilton, MP for Tatton, was forced to resign his ministerial post two years ago after a free stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris and the "cash-for-questions" affair.

He has always denied the allegations but his attempt to bring a libel action against

The *Guardian* was frustrated last year when the High Court ruled that he could not sue for defamation because of parliamentary privilege.

The Select Committee on Members' Interests ruled last year that Mr Hamilton had been "imprudent" not to declare the Paris trip, but took no action against him.

Alex Carlile, QC, Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomery, who reported Mr Hamilton over his £3,600 stay at the Ritz, is to take up the latest allegations with Sir Gordon. They include claims that about seven years ago Mr Hamilton was a guest of US Tobacco at luxury hotels in New York and London in connection with the company's campaign to avert a government ban on chewing tobacco.

Mr Hamilton said yesterday that he was still trying to bring his libel action to court and that he would answer any questions there.

Princess of Wales aims to preserve royal title

By EMMA WILKINS

LAWYERS acting for the Princess of Wales have written to her husband's legal advisers to emphasise that she wishes to retain a royal title should they divorce. The Princess's team at Mishcon de Reya wrote last week to Farrer and Co, reminding them of the Princess's wish to remain Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales.

A divorced princess might usually be expected to modify her title from HRH the Princess of Wales to Diana, Princess of Wales. However, as mother of the second in line to the throne, the Princess might be accorded the honour of retaining Her Royal Highness as part of her title.

It is understood that the question is not proving an obstacle to discussions, which are expected to continue for several weeks. "There has been private correspondence between the legal teams on the subject of the title," the Princess's spokeswoman said. "The issue is not a sticking point."

The Princess said in her *Panorama* interview in November that she wished to be "queen of people's hearts". Her desire to retain an official title forms part of her strategy to fulfil an ambassadorial role.

The Queen, who wrote to the Prince and Princess before Christmas urging them to agree their divorce, continues to play a supportive part in the process. "It is absolutely right to say that the Queen is very understanding and has not put any pressure of time on the negotiations," the Princess's spokeswoman said.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman dismissed suggestions that there was pressure for a divorce settlement before the Queen's seventieth birthday in April. "There is no particular deadline for settling this question. The main thing is to get it right," he said. "It is not linked in any way with the Queen's birthday, which she has made known she wishes to celebrate privately."

Police fear woman is with rapist

Victor Farrant 45, the convicted rapist wanted in connection with the murder of Glenda Hoskins in Portsmouth last week, could be taking shelter with another woman, police believe. Detective Superintendent David Hanna said: "If Farrant is that smooth he could easily contact somebody else, and we would hate to think another serious crime could be committed."

Police have not ruled out the possibility that Farrant may have fled abroad.

Train separates

A safety investigation was under way yesterday after the 10pm InterCity train from Exeter to Manchester split in two as it travelled through Staffordshire on the West Coast line last Friday. Initial safety devices meant the train slowed to a halt and no one was injured.

Palace coup

A documentary on Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle has been abandoned because Thames Television wanted to focus on human aspects of their history rather than the buildings and their art collections. Another company may take over the production.

Mother killed

Velda McKelvie, 77, was hacked to death while her three young sons were in the next bedroom, detectives believe. The attacker then set fire to the house in Corby, Northamptonshire. One boy, aged three, was seriously hurt in the fire. A 24-year-old man was being questioned.

Shining knight

Alan Beattie, a college lecturer, has won the world jousting championships in New Zealand for the fifth consecutive year. Mr Beattie, from Cowesby, who uses the title Alan of York, lectures on marketing, business studies and how to join the emergency services.

"How to Look Sexy, Make Friends and Manage Your Boss"

People Watching

by Vernon Coleman

The ubiquitous media doc has done it yet again; this time turning his talents for producing sparkling gems of information in rapid-fire sequence to the field of body language and private habits. As always, he makes his subject both personally relevant and of practical use. Here's how to judge people by the Christmas cards they send, the bags they carry or the tips too. Once you start to browse you would have to be a hermit not to find it utterly unputdownable.

(The Good Book Guide)

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- 20 ways to look sexy
- 12 ways to look like a winner
- 10 ways to be a successful interviewee
- 11 ways to negotiate successfully
- 10 ways to avoid being mugged
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- 22 ways to get power over people
- 4 ways to make people like you
- and much much more!

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President emerges as clear victor in Iowa

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

WHATEVER the results of today's Republican caucuses in Iowa, the clear winner will be President Clinton.

The Republicans have thrown so much mud at each other that every leading contender has been sullied, and they have offended moderate Americans by pandering so shamelessly to Iowa's powerful religious Right.

Steve Forbes, the publishing heir, has exposed the hollowiness of Robert Dole's campaign, though the ageing Senate leader remains by default the party's most likely nominee.

Mr Forbes's huge spending has forced his rivals to follow suit, severely depleting their war chests, and his trademark "flat tax" has opened an ideological rift within the party.

As if to rub in his advantage, Mr Clinton flew around Iowa at the weekend, preaching optimism about the future, looking distinctly presidential and transparently

6 This is a demolition derby. We have gone over the edge 9

enjoying the sight of the Republican bloodbath below him.

He is unchallenged for the Democratic nomination and has about \$36 million (£23.5 million) to spend on attacking whichever Republican eventually emerges as his opponent. A new poll yesterday put him 17 points ahead of Mr Dole and 18 ahead of Mr Forbes.

Mr Forbes fired the first shots with some strikingly negative commercials and his rivals retaliated, producing the absurd spectacle of Republican millionaires waging class warfare on a billionaire.

"This is a demolition derby. We have gone over the edge. The sheer volume, the money, the venom, the distortions — it's being done with more money than ever before," lamented Richard Lugar, the Indiana senator who is the only candidate to have shown restraint.

Voters are disgusted. "It is the ugliest thing I have ever seen," said one Iowa Republican activist. More significantly, recent polls have measured a rapid rise in the ranks of "undecideds".

It is a long time until November, but so far things are turning out far better for President Clinton than he could ever have hoped.

Forbes attack on religious Right helps Dole camp

FROM TOM RHODES IN DES MOINES, IOWA

STEVE Forbes, the millionaire publisher, appeared to have stumbled in the minefields of Iowa's caucuses yesterday as the battle for the soul of the Republican Party reached a nadir of negative campaigning in advance of the traditional voting process tonight.

Launching a series of bitter attacks on his rivals for the Republican nomination, Mr Forbes blamed the organisation of Robert Dole for "engaging in desperate distortion" to undermine his chances of success.

Mr Forbes said a telephone campaign implemented by Dole supporters had aimed to undermine his candidacy by citing his past comments on abortion, homosexuals in the military and other social issues.

At the same time, he lambasted the Christian Coalition, America's most influential army of religious conservatives and a critical mass thought to include at least 40 per cent of those likely to attend tonight's caucuses. Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, said Mr Forbes's attack was likely to backfire at the ballot box.

"The Republican Party is no longer the party of business, it is the party of the family,"

The climax of months of campaigning in the Hawkeye state left Mr Dole increasingly confident of victory in the first real test of the 1996 presidential campaign. The assault by Mr Forbes enabled the embattled Senate majority leader to leap to the defence of the religious Right and deflected his rivals' attention in a series of withering attacks against the heir to a publishing fortune who is said to have spent \$20 million (£13 million) on the

race — much of it on negative advertising.

Conventional wisdom, encouraged by latest polls in the state, suggested that Mr Dole would win but the battle for both second and third places, until a week ago seemingly certain to include Mr Forbes, appeared wide open with at least 19 per cent of voters said to be undecided in the final day on the stump.

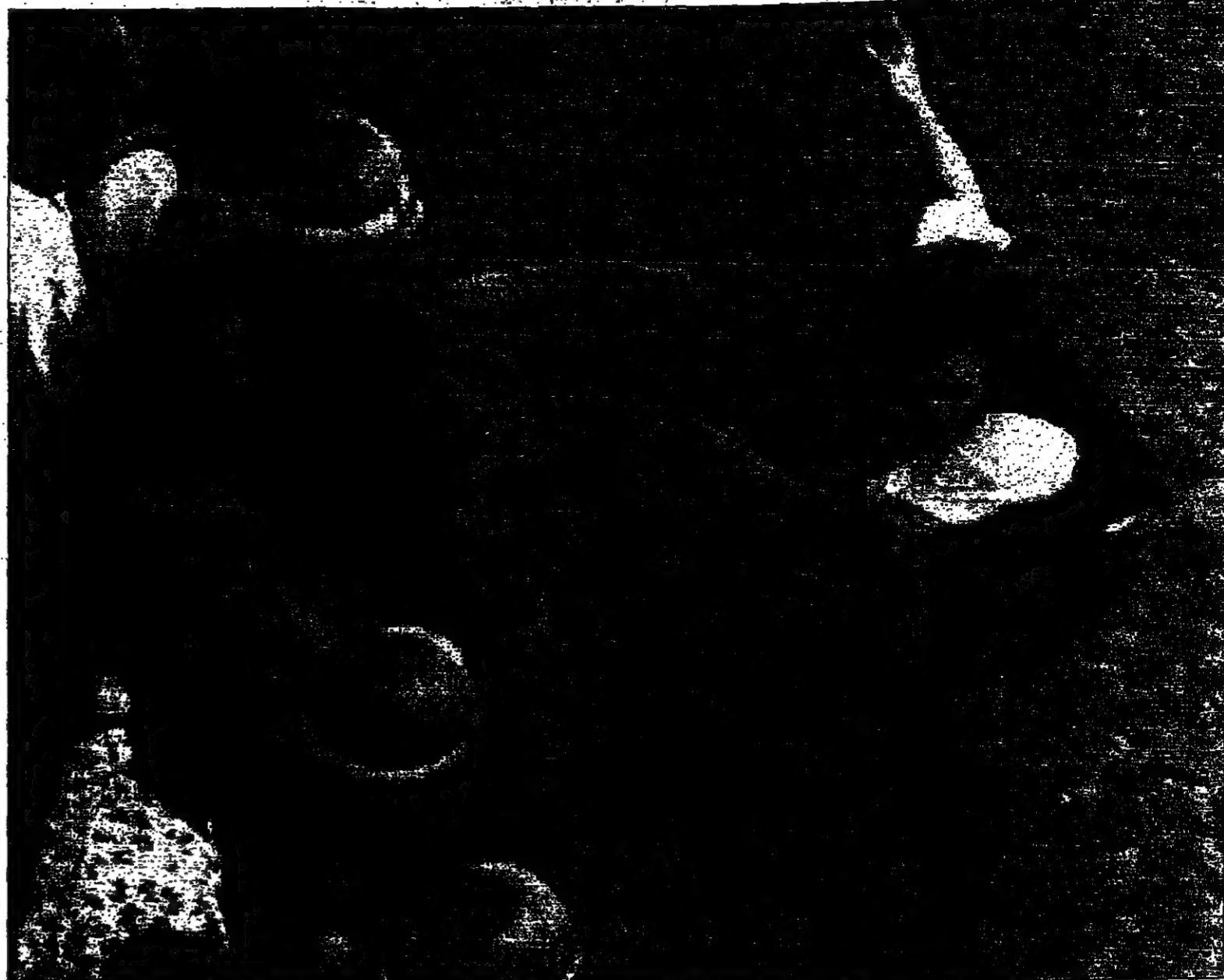
The entrance of the publishing magnate has completely altered the Iowa race. Directly flouting Ronald Reagan's stricture never to attack a fellow Republican, a blizzard of negative advertising by the Forbes machine, has produced a vituperative campaign and provided a real challenge to Mr Dole, previously seen as a favoured son from neighbouring Kansas.

"Forbes coming in was the equivalent of throwing a stick of dynamite into the mix," said Brian Kennedy, the Republican Party chairman. "It gives us a far more interesting race, even though it is not clear that Forbes is going to be the ultimate beneficiary."

In the long term, the internecine struggle between the candidates in Iowa has only emphasised a lack of certainty among many in the Republican Party that Mr Dole is capable of beating the unchallenged Democratic incumbent at the White House.

The spectre of Colin Powell, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who declined to run last year, still hung like a cloud over meetings throughout the state.

In 1988, Mr Dole won Iowa with 38 per cent of the vote. The wealth of candidates in the present race makes it unlikely he can achieve a similar result again.



Fans reaching out to Michael Jackson during filming of his new single, *They Don't Care About Us*, highlighting the plight of poor children

Rio fails to ban Jackson filming in slums

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI
IN RIO DE JANEIRO

MICHAEL Jackson staged an eccentric helicopter landing on the football pitch in one of Rio's hillside slums yesterday to film a new video which has provoked controversy with Brazilian authorities.

The American pop icon arrived in Brazil on Saturday wearing an anti-pollution mask and holding hands with two small children who travelled with him from New York. The video, for his latest single, *They Don't Care About Us*, is meant to highlight the plight of children in poverty-stricken

areas of cities. Before coming to Rio, Jackson went to the north-eastern city of Salvador, to film with 200 Afro-Brazilian percussionists in the colonial city that was once the slave capital of Brazil. During it, he received a bear hug from a fan which caused him to fall to his knees.

Rio's authorities took legal action to ban him from filming in the filthy alleys of the Dona Marta slum, which is home to 4,000 people. It is perched above the leafy, middle-class district of Botafogo, and has spectacular views of the Sugar Loaf Mountain and the huge figure of Christ the Redeemer.

Marcelo Alencar, the Governor of

Rio, said the video would reflect a "negative and damaging image" of the city, especially when it is trying to promote its flamboyant carnival which starts on Saturday.

Dona Marta, Botafogo, or slumtown, is a stark reminder of the huge gap that exists between rich and poor in the seaside city, and it is a maze of narrow alleys where the scale of drug trafficking and crime are notorious. But a judge finally overruled an attempt by Rio's authorities to refuse the pop star an entry visa after protests from residents of Dona Marta, who said the cash offered by Jackson for the use of their ramshackle huts and

beautiful views was "too good to refuse". Some of the houses have been rebuilt with air conditioning, and will be used by Jackson as changing rooms. To protect the star and his entourage, 80 male residents are being paid to act as security guards; and the local association of slum dwellers has been offered \$4,000 (£2,500) for the use of the favela.

In the slums where 90 per cent of the population is black, Jackson is a paradoxical figure. "I don't know what to think about a black man who wants to be white. He should be proud of his colour, I am," said eight-year-old Bianca Moura da Silva.

Washington agonises as film rights sold for shock 'Clinton' bestseller

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

SOMEONE somewhere is making a fortune through their inside knowledge of the Clintons' foibles, and Washington is frantic to know who.

The anonymous author of *Primary Colours*, a wicked roman à clef about President Clinton's 1992 campaign, has just sold the film rights for more than \$1 million (£667,000) and the paperback rights for \$15 million. The hardback has shot to the top of the bestseller lists and every Washington bookshop has sold out. However, a month after the novel's publication the author's identity remains a mystery.

The frenzy is building, with speculation consuming entire radio and television programmes. Chat-show hosts are gathering suspects in their studios, only to receive blank

denials. The *Washington Post* has set up a hotline for tips. Enterprising journalists have even conducted "on-line" computer interviews with the author, but he or she rejects all "autobiographical" questions.

Some in this status-conscious city are discreetly seeking to have their names added to the mix while Christopher Hitchens, a British journalist who writes for *Vanity Fair*, has mischievously held book-signing sessions.

Even Mr Clinton has now joined the game, calling it "the only secret I've seen kept in Washington for three years", but the most extraordinary aspect of the whole affair has been the reaction of the President's aides.

The novel paints a shocking picture of a glib, lecherous Southern Governor whose

ruthless wife keeps his White House campaign on course, but not one of Mr Clinton's campaign veterans has yet denounced it. On the contrary, their common reaction has been to express amazement at its verisimilitude, insisting it could have been written only by an insider.

Harold Evans, the publisher and former editor of *The Times*, claims not to know the author's identity. The copyright belongs to an untraceable Machiavelliana Inc. The book is dedicated to "my spouse, living proof that flamboyance and discretion are not mutually exclusive", but the torrent of speculation has yet to produce a consensus even on the author's sex.

□ Aids law signed: Mr Clinton has reluctantly signed legislation that will require the

Pentagon to discharge any service members carrying the Aids virus (Ian Brodie writes). The President described the measure as "abhorrent" and, in an unusual move, ordered the Justice Department not to defend the new law in court if anyone sued for wrongful dismissal. His hope is that the courts will rule that the provision is unconstitutional.

However, Mr Clinton rejected pleas by gay rights groups to veto the Bill, explaining that it contained items that for reasons of national security could not be delayed. Those known to be HIV-positive number 1,049 among the 1.5 million service personnel. All have been deemed fit for service, but are barred from combat or serving abroad where monitoring of their condition might be difficult.



Crash jet parts may be on sale

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS
IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS

AMERICAN Airlines has warned other carriers that parts of a Boeing 757 which crashed in the mountains of Colombia, killing 160 people, may be for sale on the black market.

American sent a letter late last month to airlines that fly Boeing 757s and Boeing 767s, said John Hestard, a spokesman for the Fort Worth-based carrier. The airline also included a 14-page list of parts that might be missing.

The scavenged parts may include both engines, pieces of the landing gear, emergency door slides, high-pressure turbine engine blades and toilets. He was not sure how many or which parts were taken from the crash site.

Engines like those on the crashed jet cost about \$2 million (£1.3m) each when new, and could bring at least \$1 million on the used-parts market. The parts are disassembled and refurbished to look like new, then sold with fraudulent paperwork, experts say.

Flight 965 from Miami crashed on December 20 in the mountains near Cali, killing 160 people. Four people survived.

Synagogue woos newcomers with lucrative offerings

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A SYNAGOGUE with an elderly and dwindling congregation hopes to ensure its survival by offering thousands of dollars to new recruits.

Shaarey Tefilah, a 125-year-old synagogue in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, is offering \$2,500 (£1,600) "welcome presents" to newcomers, with the additional lure of free school transport and help in finding work. In a campaign that may present a lesson to the Church of England's less successful parishes, the synagogue has devised a glossy marketing strategy to help find new worshippers.

It has placed advertisements in Jewish newspapers and offers prospective worshippers "career" guidance, housing advice and a welcome from the Mayor of Perth Amboy. It will even secure a meeting with the local bank manager to discuss attractive loan rates. Under the deal, newcomers will be excused \$375 synagogue dues for a year. There is no productivity clause; no figure has been set on the number of times newcomers will be expected to attend services.

In the 1970s the synagogue, which was founded in 1898, had more than 650 members. However, a generation was "lost" and the average age of members is now over 65. They admit that unless something radical is done it will probably have to close in a few years.

The novel recruiting drive was started by the synagogue's youngest member, Alan Goldsmith, 48, a shoe shop proprietor, whose grandfather was an early member of

the synagogue. "All the other congregants are senior citizens," he said yesterday. "I have very close ties with this synagogue and felt it was time to do something."

"The marketing drive is being paid for from an endowment fund. I argued that unless we used the money on this there would be no synagogue members left to benefit from the endowment, so it would become useless," Mr Goldsmith said.

During the recessionary years, younger men left to look for work, and changes in public attitudes did not suit the respectful tone of the synagogue. Shaarey Tefilah is an Orthodox congregation. Its members observe the Torah and do not drive on the Sabbath.

Fifteen families, from as far afield as the Midwest, are currently "actively considering" a move to Shaarey Tefilah. They will receive their welcome money once they have signed the lease on a local house.

"They are pioneers," Mr Goldsmith said. "We just want them to help the community. It is traumatic to make a move to another synagogue and we want to smooth the process for them." The scheme has created some tensions, but the newcomers tend to be more Orthodox than current congregants.

Not to be outdone by the scheme, a rival Jewish Orthodox community in New Haven, Connecticut, is tempting new synagogue members with the promise of \$5,000 interest-free loans.

Arbiters of good taste tempt French teenagers

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS



Aubrey: plans chicken dishes to rival the lure of Big Macs

PIZZA-EATING, Pepsi-sipping, burger-loving French teenagers are in for a shock. Their elders want them to rediscover *la cuisine française*. As fast-food restaurants sweep across the country, politicians, chefs and personalities are uniting to promote the gastronomic traditions that are in danger of being lost.

Last week, for instance, a Breton youth hostel decided that it needed to tell local adolescents about crêpes, the pancake that is to Brittany what haggis is to Scotland.

Announcing his week-long regional gastronomy courses, Gilbert Bénétou, director of the hostel in Dinan, said: "It's a question of awakening children's curiosity and enticing them to

discover new flavours other than hamburgers and chips."

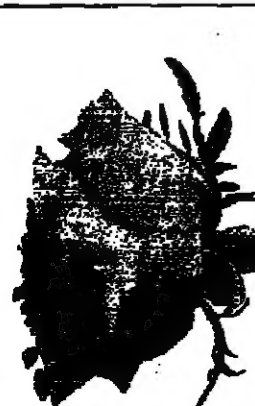
The initiative is by no means isolated. Marine Aubrey, daughter of Jacques Delors, recently said that her Foundation Against Exclusion would create its own restaurants in rundown urban areas. These would offer cheap chicken dishes to counter the influence of such giants as McDonald's.

The announcement came amid growing evidence that France's legendary resistance to global trends is on the wane. *L'exception française* — the right to be different from the rest of the world — is becoming more and more exceptional. A survey of French eating habits showed that households consume less wine, bread and meat than

ever before. Consumption of frozen food and take-away pizzas has risen. According to another study, the presence of teenagers is a powerful incentive to eat non-French cuisine. When *maman* serves a *boeuf bourguignon*, the adolescents sulk.

For years, the authorities have tried to reverse the trend by organising a *Semaine du Goût* — a week of taste — to remind schoolchildren of their heritage. Every October top chefs and teachers extol the virtues of regional cooking. For five days, teenagers are encouraged to eat snails, steak and *crêmes brûlées*. On the sixth day, research shows, they eat a Big Mac.

Leading article, page 10



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Golan dominates campaign as Peres launches early poll

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN KATERIN, GOLAN HEIGHTS

SHIMON PERES, the Israeli Prime Minister, last night formally announced his intention of holding early general elections, heralding a divisive campaign overshadowed by last November's assassination of Yitzhak Rabin in which the future of the Golan Heights will be a dominant issue.

With opinion polls showing Mr Peres, who leads Labour, more than 20 points ahead of his nearest rival, Benjamin Netanyahu, leader of the main right-wing Likud Party, campaigning will be hard-hitting.

Labour officials said polling would take place in late May or early June rather than October as scheduled.

The depth of emotion which the Golan, conquered from Syria in 1967, engenders among Israelis was demonstrated last week when 60,000 people made a symbolic pilgrimage here to plant new trees in solidarity with the 15,000 Jews who face an uncertain future in their 32 Golan settlements.

Among those digging in saplings was Rafael Eitan, a former chief of staff and leader of the ultra-nationalist Tsomet Party, who has dropped the first political bombshell of the campaign by scrapping his own bid for the presidency and lining up instead with Likud to form a united "national camp" behind Mr Netanyahu.

"As far as we are concerned, keeping the Golan in Israeli hands will be the central issue," Mr Eitan, a hardliner who once compared Arabs to cockroaches, said. "If we win, the Golan will remain in Israeli hands and the country's security will be safe."

Mr Netanyahu underlined how the disputed peace process will monopolise the campaign. "The public will have to decide between two options, there is no third way," he said.

One option will, without doubt, lead us back to the 1967 lines, divide Jerusalem forthrightly, divide the Golan and found a Palestinian state. The other, ours, will maintain a united Jerusalem, will keep the Golan, maintain security and prevent the founding of a Palestinian state.

While most Labour candidates are ready to hand back the Golan to Syria as the price of peace, the settlers who will be fighting any such move will be quoting the sentiments of Rabin just before the 1992 election which swept him to power.

"Words are not enough about the Golan Heights," he told them then. "We must put them into action—withdrawal from the Golan is unthinkable, even in times of peace."



Peres: 20 points ahead of Likud's Netanyahu

Anyone considering withdrawal from the Golan Heights would be abandoning Israel's security.

Known as "the eyes of Israel", the 700-square-mile plateau looks out over Lebanon and Syria from the snow-covered peaks of Mount Hermon. In the east, there is a strip of extinct volcano extending across a broad Syrian expanse which serves Israel's early-warning and deterrence needs. In the south are the Yarmouk and Rakkad rivers, which cut deeply between the mountains, creating a natural border that is hard to penetrate.

Even those Israelis who argue that handing back the Golan is in the wider interests of the Jewish state, do not deny its advantages.

As one officer boasted, indicating Israel's bustling surveillance equipment: "From up here, we even know who in Damascus has had their appendix removed."

"The Golan is the source of one-third of Israel's water. It is much more vital to the security of the state than the Sinai which was given back to Egypt," argued Debby Aboun, a widow and mother of six children, who has lived on a religious settlement here since 1974. The settlers are particularly aggrieved over Labour's change of heart, as 71 per cent of them voted for Rabin in 1992.

Last night it was announced in Gaza City that Yasser Arafat is to be sworn in today as the first Palestinian President. He received 87.1 per cent of the vote in the January 20 election, against 9.62 per cent for his challenger, Samir Khalil.

Hope fades for Japan landslide victims

By PERCIBONE HOOSON IN TOKYO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HOPE virtually ran out yesterday for 20 people entombed in two vehicles after Japanese rescue workers failed to dynamite a giant boulder off a collapsed tunnel.

Rescue operations were called off until today, by which time the trapped people would have spent two days buried under thousands of tons of rock and mud from a landslide. The slab of rock, 230ft tall and 13ft wide and believed to weigh 50,000 tons, had slid down a mountain and crashed into the Toyohama tunnel on Saturday, crushing a bus carrying people to Sapporo for a snow festival.

The blasting operation was a desperate gamble to reach the victims, 19 in the bus and a lone motorist on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido. Relatives agreed to the use of dynamite after efforts to reach the vehicles from either side were thwarted by tons of fallen rock and soil.

Rescue workers, using scanning equipment to poke through debris, said the front and back of the bus were crushed and there were no sounds or signs of movement. They saw the bus driver's hat and one hand but calls to him went unanswered.

A woman was rescued from her car in another section of the tunnel and taken to hospital with unspecified injuries.



The Toyohama tunnel in northern Japan in which 20 people were trapped by a giant boulder, arrowed, which plunged off a mountain in Saturday's landslide

Hong Kong blaze kills four during school hike

FROM REUTER IN HONG KONG

A SEARCH continued yesterday for a missing teacher last seen dragging children to safety up a steep path in Hong Kong, fleeing a mountain blaze which killed another teacher and three pupils.

The rescuers found an injured boy during the day, almost 24 hours after the fire engulfed a school party hiking to a picnic spot.

The rescue operation was hampered by the ferocity of the fire, which raged for 14 hours, fed by tinder-dry undergrowth despite efforts to contain it with water-bombs dropped from helicopters.

The blaze, which claimed the lives of an 11-year-old, two 13-year-olds and their geography teacher, was extinguished early yesterday.

Eleven children remained in hospital, suffering from burns, concussion and other injuries. Six of them were in a critical condition and doctors gave them only an even chance of survival.

Two were injured when they lost their grip and plunged from a helicopter sent in to pluck them to safety at the height of the blaze. Others lost their footing as they tried to flee uphill from the flames and tumbled down the boulder-strewn slopes through the wall of fire.

A helicopter winchman suffered burns to his face, neck and leg when he was lowered into the flames after the fallen children.

Islamic radicals blamed after 17 die in Algiers car bombs

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN ALGIERS

POWERFUL car bombs killed 17 people and wounded 93 others yesterday in Algiers, which is convulsed by an Islamic insurgency.

Seventeen people were killed and 52 injured when a car bomb exploded at about 3pm local time in the Belcourt quarter of the capital, Algiers, according to official sources.

The bomb exploded just as a minibus was passing a building that houses the Algerian newspaper *Le Soir d'Algérie* and the offices of several independent journalists and photographers. Witnesses said it blew a crater in the ground. It was not immediately

known whether any journalists were among the dead or injured.

Islamic radicals began targeting journalists in May 1993, and 58 have been killed, most recently an Algerian newspaper editor who was shot dead on Saturday.

Earlier yesterday a car bomb planted in another bustling quarter of the capital, Bab el Oued, exploded and wounded 41 people. French television showed dozens of people peering at the mangled wreckage of a small car used to conceal the bomb in the Bab el Oued attack. A woman wearing a headscarf and hold-

ing a baby on her hip picked her way through the pieces of concrete.

No one claimed responsibility for either attack, but suspicion fell on Islamic radicals trying to topple the military-backed Government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. The Government, reacting to the widening violence, clamped down by ordering Algerian newspapers to submit reports on terrorism to a government censor.

The bomb that wounded 41 exploded in front of a heavily protected city office, but the building underwent severe damage.

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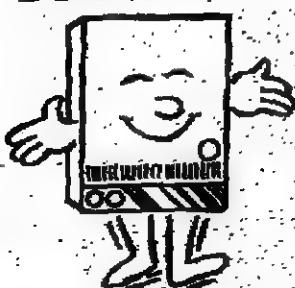


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EU foreign policy left in disarray by Balkan and Aegean bungling



Agnelli: undermined EU administrator in Mostar

SEVEN weeks before the European Union starts revamping the Maastricht treaty, the 15 member states have given themselves a fresh lesson in their inability to take joint charge of security in their own backyard.

Bungling in the Balkans and the confrontation between Greece and Turkey, averted with US mediation, have shed light on the emptiness of the grand ambitions of the common foreign and security policy enshrined in the treaty.

The EU's disarray also highlights the huge obstacles to acquiring the diplomatic or military influence to match its formidable trading muscle and economic power. The 15 are to attempt this at the Intergovernmental Conference to revise the treaty in Turin next month.

The Americans lost no time in rubbing home the message that little has changed since Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of

Two disputes have again exposed the inability of European states to take charge of security in their own backyard and have attracted criticism from senior US officials, Charles Bremner writes

State, used to quip that he had no telephone number for "dialling Europe".

When it took the EU a week to step into the row between Greece and Turkey, Richard Holbrooke, the blunt-speaking US Assistant Secretary of State, wondered why the Europeans could not handle a dispute involving one of its members and a Nato member over a tiny Aegean island inhabited only by goats. "While Clinton was on the phone with Athens and Ankara, the Europeans were literally sleeping through the night," he said. "You

have to wonder why Europe does not seem capable of taking action in its own theatre."

Britain rejected the US charge as "nonsense" in an angry outburst by the Foreign Office, which noted that the British Ambassadors in Athens and Ankara had been active in trying to defuse the tension.

Officials in Brussels offer multiple excuses for the Aegean failure. First is the absence of government in Italy, the current EU president. Under EU procedures, it is up to the holder of the rotating presidency to take the diplomatic initiative in

foreign affairs and co-ordinate action. Susanna Agnelli, the Italian Foreign Minister, stepped in on Wednesday. Italy's tardiness was seen in Brussels as a warning of what the EU might face at the inter-governmental conference. "There are less than two months to go and everything is drifting," a diplomat said. "If the Italians don't get their act together, we could be in for a mess at Turin."

The buck-passing over the Aegean dispute has been just as evident in the EU's latest embarrassment in former Yugoslavia, where the wars of the past four years cruelly exposed European inability to act in concert. Hans Koschnick, the German EU-administrator responsible for the divided city of Mostar, threatened to resign if the EU failed to back his plan for reuniting Croatia, says the plan breaches the Dayton peace accords and rioters

attacked Herr Koschnick's car in Mostar to press the point. The administrator fears that his authority has been undermined by Signora Agnelli, who went to Zagreb talking of negotiating a new plan.

For the great majority of states and Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, the solution is to equip the EU with more centralised authority over its diplomacy. This means scrapping the national veto, often used to block joint action, in favour of qualified majority voting. John Major flatly opposes this and France is unlikely to go along with it, despite President Chirac's pro-European rhetoric. There is wide agreement, however, that with 15 members and more coming, the Council of Ministers is ineffective. "The council has ceased to be a place of negotiation and become a place where you drop in to sign a press release," a senior

French diplomat said. French and German officials agree privately with Britain that the big states will never bow to the will of the smaller ones and will hold on to their sovereignty. The lesser members will just "have to come to terms with the reality of geopolitical relations", a British official said.

Stuart Eizenstat, the US Ambassador to the EU, made the point on Thursday, saying the lessons of Europe's failure in Bosnia-Herzegovina had changed nothing. "Key member states do not yet wish to relinquish their prerogatives in the foreign-policy area in favour of a common approach."

Mr Eizenstat urged Nato and the EU to start talking working together, amid moves to bring the former Communist states into both organisations.

Peter Riddell, page 18

US aims to outfox Russian mafia with new \$100 bill

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN one of the most intriguing and sensitive currency exchanges ever attempted, the United States Treasury is to unload millions of its new \$100 notes — which are supposedly counterfeit-proof — on Russia.

Great fanfare is preceding the change. Washington has sent more than 2,000 videos explaining the new currency to Russia and the other former Soviet republics. A currency hotline at the US Embassy in Moscow is receiving 200 calls a day.

But utmost secrecy surrounds the shipping of the redesigned money to Russia. The Treasury has not announced a date so far for its introduction, only that it will be before the end of March.

Experts say that the Americans have deliberately delayed any decision on when to send the money, or to which airport, to foil any hijack attempts by the powerful Russian mafia. In the economic uncertainty of modern Russia, the \$100 note is widely accepted as the hard currency of choice among the mafia and millions of entrepreneurs and hoarders. The Russian Central Bank estimates that between \$15 and \$20 billion (£9.6 and £13 billion) is circulating in US currency, about 80 per cent of it in \$100 notes.

The high-anxiety question is how many of the old notes are counterfeit. The Central Bank says up to 20 per cent. Not so, claim agents of the US Secret Service, who track fake money as well as guard Presidents. By their reckoning, for every

million dollars that Russians hold in cash only a paltry \$80 is counterfeit.

That figure seems scarcely plausible. Even in the US, \$100 notes are often looked at askance, such is their reputation as possible forgeries. In the Russian exchange, obvious counterfeit notes will be rejected.

High-tech engravers have laboured for ten years to design the new note specifically to frustrate counterfeiters, especially those in Iran who were said to be flooding the world with bogus dollars to undermine American integrity. The Secret Service's low estimate of fakes in Russia could be simply to corroborate Washington's insistence that reports of the Iranian operation were greatly exaggerated.

The new notes will stay ahead of the technology curve and are intended to outwit the latest laser copiers and scanners that can increasingly mimic the colour of existing notes to near-perfection. The incoming \$100 note increases the size of Benjamin Franklin's head and adds features difficult to replicate. They include micro-printing, a polymer thread that glows under ultraviolet light and colour-shifting ink that looks black when viewed directly and green when seen at an angle.

Russian demand for the new notes is expected to be intense. "No one will want any of the old notes for a second longer than they have to," a Moscow currency dealer said. US Treasury officials admit that they must avoid provok-

ing a rush on Russian foreign exchange outlets which could destabilise the economy. The officials say that the old notes will remain in use and there is no deadline for their expiry.

Sceptical Russians will need some convincing of that. When the ruble was changed five years ago, they were allowed only to exchange a month's salary. Millions who had stuffed mattresses with cash lost their life savings while they slept on them.

Becky Lowenthal, a US Treasury spokeswoman, said: "We're stressing that, unlike many countries where notes have been withdrawn, our currency will not be recalled. We would run the risk of instability in some places, especially Russia, if we did that. We're not taking the old notes out of circulation, just replacing them as they come back to the Federal Reserve."

Ms Lowenthal conceded that the new notes would be seen as more desirable, but predicted that withdrawal of the older ones could take many years. Moreover, this is only the beginning. Within a few years the Treasury will redesign the \$50, \$20, \$10 and \$5 notes, but not the \$1 which may, despite an earlier failed attempt, give way to a coin.

□ Baghdad: Iraq and Russia have signed a deal for the implementation of giant power and oil projects here, Iraqi official newspapers reported yesterday. Russia would carry out a number of giant projects in the fields of crude extraction and power generation", they said. (Reuters)



Jean-Marie Le Pen, right, congratulating Vladimir Zhirinovskiy in Moscow

Vodka party cheers Zhirinovskiy

Moscow: Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian extremist leader, threw a loud and lavish anniversary party on Saturday to launch his campaign for the presidency (Thomas de Waal writes).

A crowd at the Moscow

church where he celebrated his silver wedding anniversary with an Orthodox blessing ceremony was treated to free vodka and pies before Mr Zhirinovskiy and his wife, Galina, drew up in a horse-drawn troika. The guest of

honour was Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the French far-right National Front, who flew in for the occasion.

The party has already set up a office to organise celebrations for Mr Zhirinovskiy's fiftieth birthday on April 25.

La Fenice is to be rebuilt 'as it was'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Venice authorities will announce this week that La Fenice opera house, which burnt down two weeks ago, is to be restored as it was. The announcement ends a controversy over whether the theatre, which has been in operation since 1628, should be reconstructed as a 19th-century "gem of Europe" or a 21st-century masterpiece. The decision is expected to be announced by Mayor Massimo Cacciari, the left-wing Mayor of Venice, who is expected to announce the decision in a speech to the city council on Wednesday. The decision is expected to be announced by Mayor Massimo Cacciari, the left-wing Mayor of Venice, who is expected to announce the decision in a speech to the city council on Wednesday.

Venice this week begins its carnival season in a mood of sadness and hope. This is the holding of the carnival at the time of the plague, said Maurizio Scaparro, who revived the carnival in its modern form.

In addition to masked balls in the grand houses, there will be a baroque masquerade ball at the Goldoni theatre, starring the actor and playwright Dario Fo, and a concert given in St Mark's Square by the rock singer Peter Gabriel.

Signor Fo said Venice was staging a "comic, opera funeral" for La Fenice, adding that this was "a symbol of Italy today". The rebuilding commission includes not only the Mayor but also figures from the discredited Christian Democrat-Socialist administration he replaced after the "clean hands" revolution of 1992. These include Gianfranco Pirelli, who chairs the trust which runs the theatre.

There is disquiet over the sweeping powers given to the rebuilding commission, and memories of the corruption prior to 1992 over building contracts in Venice have been revived. There is also continuing disagreement over whether La Fenice "as it was" means its original 1792 form or includes the additions made after the last fire in 1836.

The cost of rebuilding was put at £133 million two weeks ago, but this has since been scaled down to about £53 million, of which the Italian Government has pledged one-tenth. The rest will come from the appeal funds set up in Europe and America.

Opera experts say the restoration is also an opportunity for La Fenice's company to revive its reputation after criticism that it had become provincial, beholden to trade unions and generally unworthy of its magnificent home.

Major is to visit colony

Hong Kong: John Major is to visit Hong Kong next month (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

He will arrive in the colony after a meeting in Thailand of heads of European Union governments, their South-East Asian counterparts, and Chinese, South Korean and Japanese leaders on March 1 and 2. The Prime Minister is expected to have private talks in Bangkok with President Jiang Zemin or Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister. It is feared in Hong Kong that there is little Mr Major can do to diminish fears over next year's handover to Peking.

Papal trip ends

Caracas: The Pope ended a week-long tour of Latin America by telling thousands of Venezuelans at an open-air Mass to shun "idols" such as materialism and live by Christian ideals (AP).

Grenade toll

Oslo: Two teenagers were killed and four others injured, three severely, when an explosive, believed to be a hand grenade, went off during a party at a house in Kyrpedalen, northwestern Norway (AP).

Stand-off ends

Grozny: Russian soldiers swept the central square of Grozny, the Chechen capital, for bombs after protesters were driven away in buses, ending a tense week-long stand-off (Reuters).

Poll rioting

Dhaka: Riots spread across Bangladesh as opposition activists tried to halt Thursday's general election. Two people were shot dead, one a senior politician, and nearly 150 people were hurt (Reuters).

Monk praised

Phnom-Penh: Maha Ghosananda, a monk called the "Gandhi of Cambodia" for trying to end fighting between the Government and the Khmer Rouge, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize (AFP).

Miami splice

Rome: An Italian aged 29 who had a rare congenital disease, has returned to Italy after six transplants — kidney, pancreas, stomach, large intestine, small intestine and liver — at a Miami hospital (AP).

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British to investigate Russian bases

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO Russian military bases are to be investigated this week by a British arms control inspection team searching for violations of an international treaty which is causing friction between Moscow and the West.

Although Russia is committed to implementing the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, signed by 30 countries in 1990 and enforced since 1992, Moscow is insisting on keeping more tanks and heavy guns in the North Caucasus than is permitted under the agreement. The British team has warned Moscow of its proposed arrival later today but without notifying the Russians of the bases selected for inspection. Codenamed Operation Finbar, the random check by an 11-strong team is part of the Western effort to ensure that Russia is complying with the conventional arms reductions agreed under the treaty.

Unprecedented access granted under the treaty will enable the British officers and non-commissioned officers to inspect and photograph any of the "treaty-limited

equipment" found at the two bases. The Russians have borne the brunt of the equipment destruction demands laid down by the treaty and have eliminated more than 10,000 items in the five categories — main battle tanks, artillery, armoured combat vehicles, attack helicopters and combat aircraft. They have also destroyed 7,000 more items of equipment east of the Urals, a region which is not covered by the treaty.

By comparison, Britain has only had to destroy 200 items, most of which were ageing Chieftain tanks, out of the 31,000 pieces of equipment eliminated by the 30 signatories to the treaty.

Although the Russians have complied with the overall limits set by the treaty and have become increasingly co-operative and at ease with visiting Western inspection teams, Moscow remains adamant that it must have the freedom to deploy a heavy presence of tanks and guns in the North Caucasus where Russia faces its most serious security challenges from former Soviet republics. The treaty

sets limits as well as national limits and Russia is now technically in breach of the treaty, although Western governments are largely sympathetic to Moscow's cry that its security priorities have changed significantly. Last year General Vladimir Semenov, commander of Russian ground troops, said that a new 58th Army would be set up in the North Caucasus. "The interests of security and the wholeheartedness of Russia must have priority over the articles in this treaty."

However, the British inspection team from the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (Jacig), based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, is not involved in the politics of the treaty's enforcement. Their job this week will be to ensure that the appropriate number of items from the five categories are located at the two bases selected for inspection and to report any violations. Headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Henk de Jager, a Royal Marine, the Jacig team will carry no weapons, but will be equipped with a satellite-linked global positioning system.

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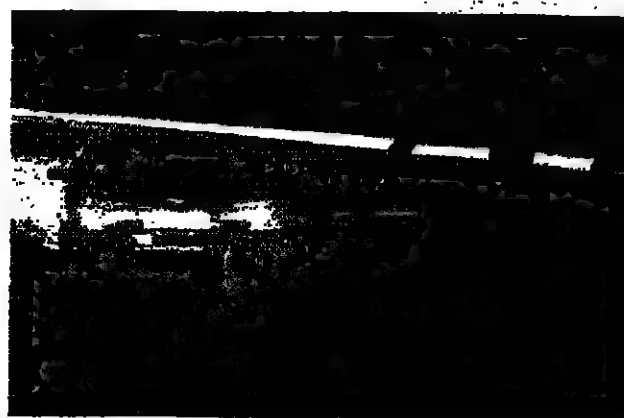
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Salford bring Wigan's cup run to abrupt end

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Colombian blends into Keegan's wider scheme

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Britons step up bids for indoor records

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 12 1996



Francis, at 6ft 7in the tallest player in the League, presents Dorigo, of Leeds United, with a considerable challenge during the 2-1 defeat for Birmingham City at St Andrew's. Photograph: Marc Aspland

World Cup opens in fitting style

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN CALCUTTA

THERE was no end, yesterday, to the immense casting shadows over the cricket World Cup and Australia and West Indies must now forfeit two points for refusing to play in Colombo. There was, however, a beginning to the competition proper with the opening ceremony here.

The teams were not brought here without motive. Jagmohan Dalmiya, driving force of the organising committee, is a Bengali and the launch has been part of his vision. It had its drawbacks, such as the fact that Calcutta lies a

the pavements of Calcutta have been cleared for the pageantry of the Cup, hundreds of thieves have been arrested in the area of the team hotels and what is quaintly known as the police anti-rowdy squad was out in force yesterday.

Apart from the usual logistical problems in India—England's party had to be up by 'dawn' today and will not arrive at their Ahmedabad destination until 8pm—the players are enjoying the camaraderie of it all. On Saturday, Shane Warne was having a poolside chat with his South African pal, Jonty Rhodes, when a shy coloured lad approached. It was Paul Adams, eager to meet his hero. Warne cheerfully obliged.

England remain hounded by injuries. Neil Fairbrother requiring four stitches in a head wound yesterday after colliding with a fence at practice, but they are treating the tumult of life here with a practiced phlegmatism. More than 100,000 packed Eden Gardens yesterday and the show passed off peacefully, even the apprehensive Australians treated to polite applause. The choreography was stunning but, even here, the show met its banana skins. In atmospheric darkness, a laser impression of the Cup itself was supposed to blaze from a giant screen. Instead, it spun and lurched drunkenly. Organisers blamed the wind: given the events of the past week, they may consider it was symbolic.



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minimum of 850 miles from the initial games of each team, but it was still an inspired choice. "Share the magic" is the catchphrase of the competition: in Calcutta's crowded streets, there is no choice.

On Saturday, the city was brought to a standstill by a cavalcade. There were 200 motorcycles and 20 floats and the idea was that they would proceed to Eden Gardens in three hours. They arrived more than three hours late.

The thousands of beggars who have habitually lined

Fry faces tough task to lift Birmingham

Yeboah carries Leeds halfway to Wembley

Birmingham City 1
Leeds United 2

By ROSE HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE return of Tony Yeboah galvanised Leeds United to within a game of their first Wembley cup final since 1973. In a Coca-Cola Cup first leg that paid no heed to football's excuse that semi-finals are crippled by fear, Yeboah's ability to score once, and then to panic Chris Whyte, the former Leeds defender, into an own goal, hauled Leeds back from the threat of a defeat which, under the tenacious and passionate Birmingham City assaults, they had faced for half the game.

When you visit St Andrew's, you must throw dice in Barry Fry's casino. The Birmingham manager has such a restless soul, such a gambler's instinct, and such a compulsive habit of buying and borrowing players, that the only thing you can anticipate is that his team will attack on all fronts.

Yesterday, he included a goalkeeper called Bart, a young man plucked from non-league football in Holland on the recommendation of one of Fry's former players when he was manager, of Barnet. A telephone call here, a nod there, is enough for this rapacious wheeler and dealer.

Others in the team included John Sheridan, the director of midfield, making his debut in a loan period from Sheffield

Wednesday, and then there was Jonathan Bass, 20, playing only the second senior game of his life because Birmingham, already without Bennett, their injured first-team goalkeeper, so ill-timed their suspensions that three of the first-choice defenders were also obliged to be bystanders.

One constant, only one in Birmingham's 11 Coca-Cola Cup games, has been Steve Claridge. He, the epitome of the tireless worker, the hungry

shot from outside the penalty area, beat Lukic comprehensively.

We had already seen two elements that no Birmingham City stalwart wanted: a coin, or some other object, had been thrown at McAllister from a lunatic in the crowd, a lunatic who jeopardises Birmingham's future because the club is already on probation after previous crowd trouble.

The other unwanted element? The sheer class of

ply drilled the ball past the stranded, startled Griemink.

After that, the wheel of fortune spun from one side to the other. The greater number of chances fell to Birmingham and were spurned by Francis and by Hunt and Bowen, one of the substitutes.

Eventually, against the run of play, and faced with cruel misfortune, Birmingham succumbed. The winning goal stemmed from the athleticism of Kelly.

Down the right flank, he chased a ball that others would have given up as lost, he reached it right at the corner flag and, wonderfully, he turned and whipped in a centre measured for the head of Yeboah. The Ghanaian's contact was not of his usual calibre, the ball travelled down into the mud, but it struck Whyte, rose up again, and looped mockingly into the net past poor Griemink.

Leeds had done it without Brodin, a multimillion pound foreigner fit but not in favour. Fry insisted: "It ain't all over yet." However, when the second leg is played on February 25, Leeds will be clear favourites... unless that man Fry is planning another couple of loan players, say Yeboah and McAllister, for his squad.

BIRMINGHAM CITY SQUAD: G Griemink — J Bass, C Whyte, M Johnson, J Frost — J Hunt, J Sheridan (sub J Bowen, 77min), R Caspary (sub R Ochoa, 88), G Cooper (sub R Ocho, 88) — V Francis, S Coustas.

LEEDS UNITED SQUAD: J Lukic — G Kelly, D Whelan, P Besley, T Dorigo — C Palmer, M Ford (sub L Rodon, 88) — R Wallace (sub B Deane, 88), G McAllister, G Speed — T Yeboah.

Referee: K Cooper (Preston).

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fellow who has no respect for men of a supposedly higher class, began almost everything that Birmingham threw at Leeds. His first shot, from 20 yards, surprised Lukic; it was delivered on the turn, either optimism or sheer cheek at its extreme, but floated fractionally wide of the far angle between post and bar.

Claridge refused to be suppressed. In the 25th minute, he created the opening goal for Kevin Francis. It was something of a role reversal, for Francis is a bean pole of 6ft 7in, a basketball figure on the cloying mud of St Andrew's.

Yet it was Claridge who kept in the air to beat Wehrerall, winning the ball from Sheridan's perceptive pass, and dropping it behind the centre back for the rangy Francis to run on and then, with an explosive right-foot

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'Our Sal' tempts ITV cameras back indoors

Ten days ago, the future for athletics as a television sport was looking bleaker than ever. Not even the presence of the two biggest names in British athletics had tempted the cameras to Birmingham for the AAA indoor championships. You had to read your morning newspapers to discover that, while Sally Gunnell had come second in the 400 metres, Linford Christie had pulled up injured.

On Saturday, athletics began to fight back. The venue was the National Indoor Arena again, the event was the British leg of the richly-endowed Rhyth Tour, and the results, produced by a field of world-class competitors, will have had broadcasting executives scurrying for the calculators. What they will have been

trying to work out, however, is not how much to pay for television coverage of athletics, but how little.

The days of television channels writing promoters blank cheques have long gone, but high-quality meetings, such as this, show that indoor athletics can still make for a very enjoyable afternoon's television — provided that you have a sufficiently star-studded field. Birmingham did and was rewarded with the presence of ITV and Eurosport. They, in turn, were rewarded with a world record (Maria Mutola in the 1,000 metres), a British and Commonwealth record (Ashia Hansen in the women's triple jump) and an impressive win by Tony Jarrett.

Yet, however distinguished their efforts, none of these



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

athletes was deemed to have the sort of box office appeal required by audience-chasing ITV. The highlight of the afternoon, according to Jim Rosenthal, the anchorman, was "the televised return of Our Sal". From that moment on, it was Gunnell with everything — on the treatment table, running, being interviewed... the works.

Eurosport needs no persuading of the merits of athletics on television — Birmingham was the second of five

indoor meetings that it is covering in six days. With a globe-trotting summer ahead, Tim Hutchings and Steve Cram, the channel's commentators, are probably rather relieved that they are covering these indoor meetings from the warmth and satellite-linked comfort of their Paris studios.

Yet it does have its drawbacks. On Saturday, for instance, Eurosport began its Birmingham coverage 15 minutes earlier than ITV, allowing

it to follow the top-class women's triple jump from the outset. With Hansen, Inessa Kravets and Iva Prandzeva all competing, it looked a good decision (especially as ITV played catch-up with recordings slotted between track events), but somewhere along the line, the perils of long-distance commentary caught up with them.

It was the fifth round. Prandzeva was on the runway. "Ignore that caption," Cram said confidently. The caption said that the lead was held at 14.58 metres, but Cram disagreed. According to him, the lead was held by Prandzeva's jump of 14.56 metres. Sadly, the caption was right and Cram was wrong — somehow, the satellite channel had managed to miss Prandzeva's winning and record-

breaking jump altogether. That, though, was an uncharacteristic slip from a channel that can justifiably claim to be the home of athletics. The question is for how much longer? The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) has declined to meet the considerable sum for television coverage of International Amateur Athletic Federation meetings for the next four years sought by Primo Nebiolo, its president.

The EBU, which has close and complex links with Eurosport, has offered a much smaller sum: The present impasse leaves the negotiating door open to anyone taking a more optimistic view of the future of athletics on television. ITV is said to be considering it — but only, presumably, if it includes "Our Sal".

Salford end Wigan's game of monopoly

Salford 26
Wigan 16

By CHRISTOPHER LAMINE

IT WAS like the curtain coming down on *The Mousetrap*. Nine years and 43 unbeaten matches since Wigan's last defeat in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, way back at Oldham in February 1987, the most successful run in rugby league or, indeed, British team sport history, was dramatically and abruptly ended by Salford yesterday.

As with all the teams that tried and failed to knock Wigan from their pedestal, Salford were given virtually no chance. An hour after an extraordinary upset, people were still gathered in and around the Willows Ground, Salford supporters pinching themselves and Wigan's large following in a state of disbelief that their annual appointment at Wembley in April is cancelled this year.

Salford, the first division champions, rose majestically to the occasion. Steve Blakeley, an inspirational man-of-the-match in attack, and Scott Naylor, scorer of two of Salford's four tries, were once on Wigan's books. Steve Hampson, another Wigan old boy, made an outstanding defensive contribution in an overall display of superb collective will.

As a player, Andy Gregory won five Challenge Cup winners' medals with Wigan. As coach of Salford, his smile was broad, proud and mischie-

vous. "We won a round, that's all," he said, but Gregory was feeling nobody. His side had achieved history on a day when Wigan, finally, met their match and shrank from the task.

Wigan, as subdued afterwards as they were in the game, were gracious in defeat, but, as phenomenal as their stranglehold on the game's oldest and most-cherished prize was, the discovery of their mortality can only be for the greater good of the sport. The script was a tired and predictable one, and the shocking twist yesterday, after Wigan's eight successive Challenge Cup victories, could not have been better timed on the eve of Super League and the move to summer.

Times are changing, and a lessening of one team's dominance can only be an encouragement to those sides used to trailing in the Wigan slipstream. Wigan had survived so many white-knuckle rides down the years in the Challenge Cup as to imagine they might survive another.

Yet the intensity with which Salford burned in the first half did not relent. In a rumbustious Salford pack, Forber typified the spirit in their ranks, with his surges up the middle and last-ditch defence. When Wigan got even a half-break, Forber was there to snuff out the danger. This intensified as Wigan clawed back to 20-10, but fell away when Lee dummied the Wigan cover and Martin stormed into the gap.

Whereas apparently irre-



Martin, the Salford try-scorer, charges at the Wigan defence during his side's extraordinary victory yesterday

trievable situations, at Hull and Halifax in recent years, were rescued, Salford proved too stubborn and Wigan, unusually, lacked the will and skill. It is a rare occurrence that none of their cylinders should fire, but Wigan have rarely been so rattled as they were by the head-on force with which they were met from the fifth minute. Lee's kick caused panic in the Wigan ranks and Young pounced on the free ball.

Wigan could not achieve any leverage in attack and left themselves wide open at the back. The irrepressible Blakeley ripped through the middle to initiate the next try, by Naylor, and later sent over

the third of his five goals. Wigan needed three scores to go ahead, and immediately picked up one, as Connolly found Tuigamala lurking on the wing. On the stroke of half-time, this might have

dealt Salford a psychological blow. Instead, it had the reverse effect. Naylor linked over for his second try, after a fine build-up by Blakeley and Forber, whereupon Wigan

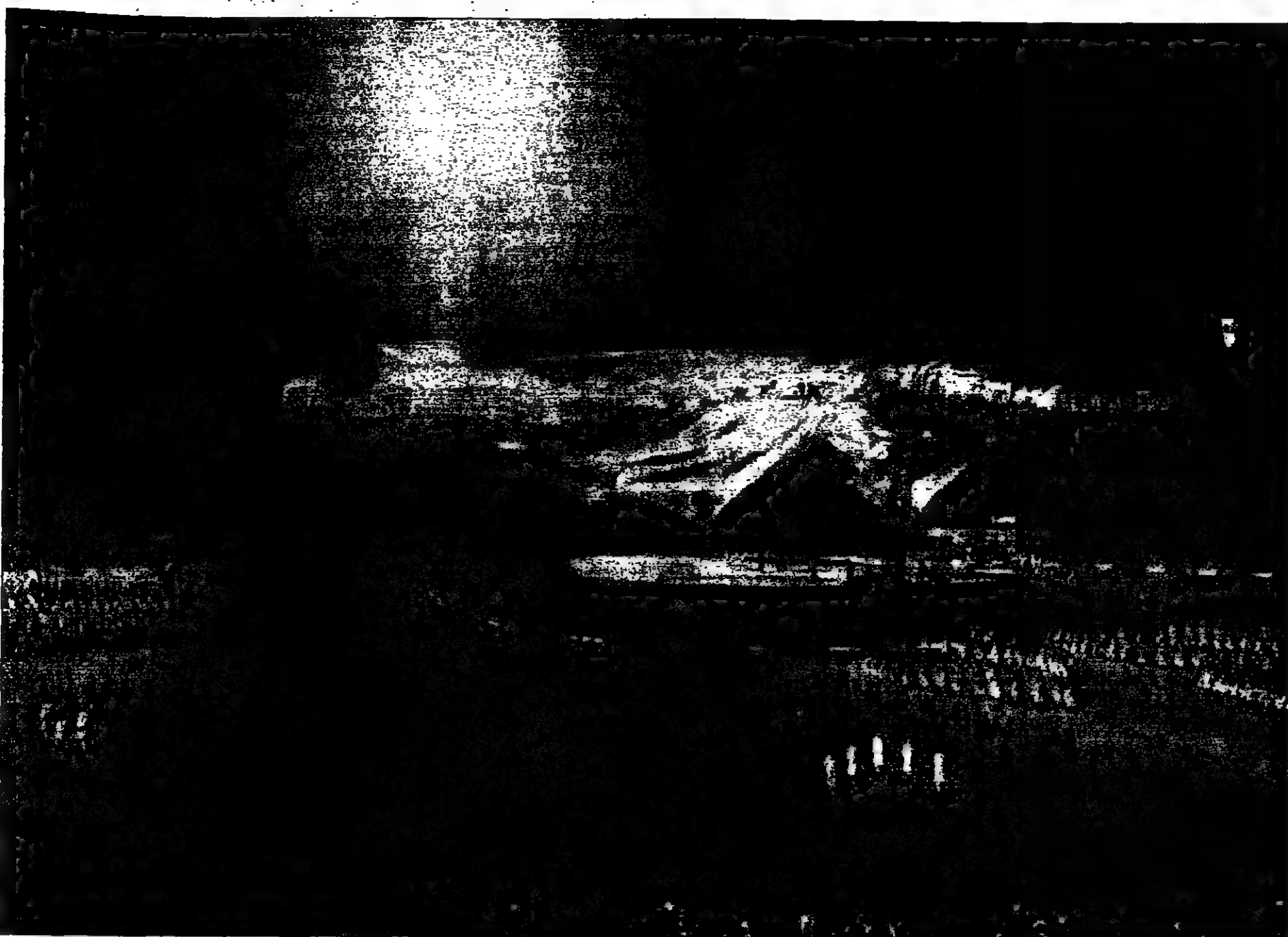
threw everything at Salford. Offian found a way through, but, in holding out for two subsequent sets of six tackles on their line, Salford turned the tide.

Martin's try was the decisive score, and Blakeley and Rogers had others disallowed before Tuigamala's consolation score.

WIGAN SEVEN YEARS ON

1988: 1st rd: bt Bradford 24-0 (H); 2nd rd: bt Leeds 30-14 (H); 3rd rd: bt Wigan 10-1 (H); 4th rd: bt Salford 24-4 (H); 5th rd: bt Huddersfield 20-10 (H); 6th rd: bt Doncaster 19-9 (H); 7th rd: bt Bradford 17-4 (H); 8th rd: bt Oldham 12-4 (H); 9th rd: bt Warrington 12-4 (H); 10th rd: bt St Helens 20-0 (H); 11th rd: bt Hull KR 14-4 (H); 12th rd: bt Dewsbury 20-6 (H); 13th rd: bt Wakefield 26-14 (H); 14th rd: bt St Helens 20-14 (H); 15th rd: bt Warrington 26-14 (H); 16th rd: bt Clontarf 28-4 (H); 17th rd: bt Rochdale 24-4 (H); 18th rd: bt Bradford 32-2 (H); 19th rd: bt Oldham 30-16 (H); 20th rd: bt St Helens 12-4 (H); 21st rd: bt Salford 22-6 (H); 22nd rd: bt Warrington 14-0 (H); 23rd rd: bt St Helens 13-4 (H); 24th rd: bt Bradford 71-10 (H); 25th rd: bt Clontarf 28-12 (H); 26th rd: bt Hull 40-2 (H); 27th rd: bt Dewsbury 20-4 (H); 28th rd: bt St Helens 23-0 (H); 29th rd: bt Halifax 19-10 (H); 30th rd: bt Bradford 14-4 (H); 31st rd: bt Wigan 20-14 (H); 32nd rd: bt Wakefield 24-18 (H); 33rd rd: bt Hull 22-21 (H); 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Australia and West Indies prefer forfeit to Colombo fixtures



An already troubled cricket World Cup finally gets underway with the tournament opening ceremony at Eden Gardens, Calcutta, yesterday. Photograph: Russell Boyce

Sri Lanka win points not matches

SEVEN hours of debate here this weekend failed to break the deadlock threatening the harmony and balance of the cricket World Cup, which opened last night with a curious cocktail of celebration and recrimination. Australia and West Indies, intransigent in their refusal to visit Colombo, have consequently forfeited their games against Sri Lanka, who will, by way of compensation for loss of revenue, stage a goodwill match against a combined India and Pakistan side in Colombo tomorrow.

The matter will not end there. An emergency session of the International Cricket Council (ICC), spanning Saturday afternoon and yesterday morning, failed in its mediating purpose and stopped only just short of the nine-hour meeting three years ago, at which the venue of this competition was bought and

sold. Now, as then, the setting was formal, but the atmosphere more rancorous than decorous. Now, as then, the ramifications are unlimited.

Although Australia and West Indies are to continue in the competition with the putative loss of no more than two points — both should still qualify for the last eight — further penalties will inevitably follow. Some of these may be financial. Others will be cricket community to what some see as the selfish sabotage of this event.

Many options were investigated during the weekend and India even offered to play Kenya as an initial match in Colombo, from which the security situation could then be assessed. West Indies and Australia, who have been guided throughout by government advice on the safety issue, declined to reconsider their decision — intractability matched, on the other side, by a refusal to alter the Cup schedule in any way.

The fury of Pilmom, the organising committee, at the attitude of the defaulting countries is reflected by the Indian media and, through it, the public. The teams withdrew from their Colombo commitments because safety could not be guaranteed. Australia, at least, had good reason to do so; but they must now prepare themselves for possible hostility wherever they play. Australia, with ten days to fill before that happens, were last night planning to fly to Bombay for practice.

The press conference, yes-



Alan Lee, in Calcutta, reports on a World Cup stalemate that will rest heavy on cricket's conscience

terday, to confirm the unsatisfactory resolution featured an increasingly apoplectic performance by Jagmohan Dalmiya, the Pilmom convenor, encouraged by questions from the floor accusing Australia and West Indies of anything from cowardice to racism. At one point, the cry went up that it was all "a conspiracy against the Third World", a theme abandoned only when it was pointed out that the Third World also includes West Indies.

The ICC is also widely being accused of weak-kneed incompetence, which is unfair. Weakness, most certainly is, as was regrettably acknowledged yesterday by Sir Clyde Walcott,

its chairman, but the weaknesses are not in the intentions and commitment of its officers, but in its constitution.

The ICC is merely the sum of its constituents and, when they fall out among themselves, there is no executive power available to arbitrate. Until that is established, the game will remain a hostage to the sort of circumstances that are now blighting this tournament.

"There is a need for the ICC to have more clout," Sir Clyde said. "The time has come in this cricketing world when some organisation above the cricket boards should have the power to make decisions. At present, that power does not

exist. I certainly don't have the authority to tell countries whether they must play or not.

"I was here only to guide and moderate. There was nothing more I could do."

Neither, clearly, was there anything that Pilmom could do, for the rules it had compiled for the competition made no provision for teams opting out of fixtures to be coerced or even eliminated. "Sometimes you learn from a mistake," Dalmiya said, mournfully.

"I never anticipated this happening, because it has never happened in cricket before. Countries staging future World Cups may like to frame their rules differently."

Sir Clyde evidently has some sympathy with the stance of the Australians and his own West Indian countrymen. "They acted upon information from reliable sources," he said, adding what sounded like a note of reproach to the tournament organisers. "Unfortunately, Pilmom did not agree to reschedule the fixtures so that two alternative games could go to Sri Lanka."

However, Dalmiya was unrepentant. "Pilmom was not convinced there was a need for rescheduling," he said. "We were prepared to hold matches in an empty ground or to helicopter the teams in from India. It is still not too late for them to reconsider these options and match the solidarity shown by Kenya and Zimbabwe in going ahead with their games in Sri Lanka."

Almost inevitably, the bombing in London's Docklands on Friday night was held up by Indian journalists as an analogy. Dalmiya and

Arif Abassi, his Pakistani counterpart, being quizzed as to whether their teams might now withdraw from the scheduled tours of England this summer. Both dismissed the possibility. Dalmiya pointing out: "A bomb went off during the first World Cup in England and no teams withdrew. Bombs have gone off during ICC meetings and no one has withdrawn."

The differences here, of course, are that Australian players were personally threatened, some with death, by fanatics in Sri Lanka (and Pakistan) and that they, and West Indies, had the opportunity to judge the Colombo situation before setting off.

They have acted prudently, but those who believe the caution to be excessive include at least one of their own. Ian Chappell, a former Australia captain, here as a television commentator, is appalled at the concession of a game.

"Forfeit is a dirty word to me," he said. "I couldn't bring myself to give away a game of cricket in any circumstances."

It should not have been necessary. If Pilmom had acted with foresight rather than obstinacy, relocating the games as soon as trouble loomed, Sri Lanka could have been recompensed out of the additional revenue. That option has now been sacrificed, along with the integrity of the whole competition, for while Sri Lanka have lost in many ways, they have already gained four points without playing, a potentially significant anomaly that will forever be on the conscience of this event.

Test of nerve restores Hakkinen to racing trim

Oliver Holt, in Estoril, on a driver's fightback from deathbed to racetrack

Mika Hakkinen hid his bloodshot eyes behind a pair of dark glasses here yesterday the way that a boxer does when he has been bruised by an opponent's punches. His own fight, three months ago to the day, lasted little more than a split-second and the concrete wall at the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide was always going to be the winner. Yesterday, though, he made his first public appearance since the crash that nearly killed him and announced happily that he was coming back for more.

He spoke of sitting behind the wheel again with the joy of a learner driver who has just passed his test, thrilled by the simplest things. People whom he once considered colleagues have become friends. "Life became my priority, not work, work, work," he said. "I saw that we are all human beings, not machines, and that we have to think of other people sometimes." Behind the glasses, he is seeing more clearly than ever.

At times, of course, he looked thoroughly ill at ease, casting his eyes down at the ground in the face of banks of the photographers who had come here to picture him and David Coulthard, his new team-mate, alongside the new McLaren-Mercedes Formula One car. In the weeks since the accident, he has been protected from the public glare as speculation about whether he would be able to continue racing raged around him.



'The first lap back behind the wheel was wonderful'

His face is thinner than it used to be, certainly, and his manner not quite as assured as it was in the days before his car spun out of control during the first qualifying session for the race on November 10, clipped a kerb and was launched straight into a tyre barrier shielding the wall. He lapsed into a coma and, at the circuit, people said that he would not last the night. Even the more optimistic doubted that he would ever drive again.

Yet he did get through the night and, after a month in hospital with the constant help and support of Ron Dennis, the McLaren managing director to whom he paid tribute, he was allowed home. He began doing a little light running, then some more strenuous fitness work and then more still during a week of intensive physical conditioning in Bali. A week ago, he got back in a Formula One car at a private test in the south of France and went quicker than Michael Schumacher, the world champion, had in a Ferrari a few days earlier.

Now, despite the lingering effects of his injuries, his handshake is as firm as ever and he is insistent that he will take his place on the grid for the first race of the season in Melbourne on March 10. The Mika Hakkinen story is quickly becoming one of those tales of miraculous recovery that professional sportsmen seem so adept at producing.

As they do so often with boxers, some will question why Hakkinen, 27, would want to re-enter a sport that nearly deprived him of his life and one that he admits will undoubtedly cause him to crash again this season. His replies to the stream of questions directed at him at a press conference that reduced the other team personnel to virtual spectators provided all the answers.

"I have to admit that I was a bit nervous when I got back into the car last week," he said. "I was OK at first, but then I was standing next to the car putting on my Balclava and my gloves and I suddenly realised all the mechanics had gone silent. Usually, in Formula One, there is noise everywhere and a lot happening, but it was completely quiet."

"But then, when I sat in the cockpit and selected first gear and went out into the pit lane, I felt fantastic. I did not feel scared any more and that first lap back behind the wheel was so wonderful. When I shifted up through the gears, it felt so smooth. Braking for the corner, accelerating, just simple things gave me this amazing feeling, this warm feeling. It was as though I had my life back again. This is what I love doing."

Hakkinen has never won a grand prix, but is widely regarded as the possessor of the most raw speed in Formula One. "In fast corners, he is even faster than Schumacher," Martin Brundle, his former colleague, said last week. His reputation was secured when he outqualified the late Ayrton Senna — who was his team-mate at the time — at this circuit in 1993.

Yet his career, which began at Lotus and has spanned 63 races, has also been bedevilled by lapses of concentration and a series of crashes. Hakkinen was entirely blameless in Adelaide, where a puncture sent his car out of control, but he admitted yesterday that he was prepared for more crashes this season.

"You have to accept that, over the course of a normal season, you are going to spin a couple of times and maybe hit the wall," he said. "That is just the way motor racing is. You have to accept it is going to happen to you as well and you just hope it will not be a big one. You just have to make sure you are as fit as you can be so you are prepared for it. By the start of the season, I will be ready. I am going to Melbourne to win."



Who will be the world champions of one-day cricket? Alan Lee, Simon Wilde, John Woodcock and Michael Henderson look ahead to a competition already riven by controversy but still full of exciting possibilities. Our four-page guide starts on page 33

Leaders assert quality with stylish display

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

SOUTHGATE played hockey of the highest class yesterday in scoring four goals without reply against Teddington to retain their position as leaders of the National League. It was not that Teddington played badly — they started well and fired several shots at goal — but, in the end, could not match the home side's maturity and confidence.

It was against the run of play when, after 13 minutes, Shaw found the space to create the chance for Woods to open the scoring. Teddington's attempt to equalise was thwarted five minutes later by Cadman, the Southgate goalkeeper, who saved well from Wallis.

A minute before the interval, Waugh forced his way through on the right to score the second goal, and added another in the 59th minute shortly after Conway had missed another chance to put Teddington back into the game. Simon completed the scoring two minutes from the end.

By the end of the day, Cannock, Reading, Old Loughtonians and

Guildford were all hot on the heels of Southgate. Crutchley scored two goals for Cannock in a 7-1 away victory over St Albans, one from a short corner. Edwards added two more, also from short corners.

Ian Jennings had a profitable day for Guildford, converting three short corners in a 5-2 home win over Havant. Old Loughtonians remained in the hunt with a 6-0 home victory over Hull, and Reading won 2-0 at home on Saturday, against Hounslow, Osborn, from a short corner, and Mark Hoskin scored in the first half.

Barford Tigers, who defeated Bourneville 2-1, lost Saturday's match, who was sent off for a second offence in the 56th minute having been temporarily suspended earlier for a tackle. Barford were later reduced to nine men, when Gurnulch Singh was suspended. St Albans, Hull and Stourport, the teams at the bottom of the table, face a fight to stay in the division.

Doncaster's win over Richmond pushed them to third place in the second division.

Kerly falls prey to Richmond's finishing line



Kerly, who is relishing his return to action at Richmond

Simon Kerly, the hook-billed predator, gold medal-winning hero of Seoul, the man with a better record than Gary Lineker — 109 international goals, 172 caps for England and Great Britain — returned to the English hockey league at the weekend, at the age of 36, trying to help Richmond to get off the bottom of the second division.

In vain, for, unusually, he remained goalless in a 4-1 home defeat by Doncaster. "I think I might have done better in midfield rather than at forward," he said, though he did have a goal disallowed when the score was 1-1.

He had already turned out for Richmond for a cup match, playing for ten minutes, laying one player out cold — "It was an accident, I feel awful about it" — and, yes, scoring a goal. "I flicked it and it went in, totally unexpected," he said.

Or, to put it another way, totally predictable: Kerly was the one who always scored all the goals. He did lots of dogged and hard-running team things, too, but anybody with fitness and commitment could do them; and there were — are — many hockey things that he cannot do at all.

Simon Barnes on how hockey's great goalscorer was tempted out of retirement for love of the game

"There were always a lot of people who were much better than me," he said. "Guys who can do fantastic things with the ball. There are a lot of things I can't do at all, but what I can do is do the very simple things when it really matters. Put a ball through a one-foot gap when it means the difference between an Olympic final and missing out. I can do that."

Hitting the ball straight. It is the most basic skill in all ball games. Most people can do it, to some degree, but doing it at the magic moment, doing it when every element of the If test is called into being at once, that shows an appetite for crisis that few people can manage. In the past decade, England have had Lineker, Andrew, Kerly.

I looked out for the falconine nose, thinking that by that I would recognise him, but it was the blazing falconine eyes that did the trick. He looks just the same as he did in the glided year of 1988. "I did an interview for IBM once," he

said. "I failed on my personality test. They came to the conclusion that I should not be involved with high-pressure situations." Let us think of an example of a high-pressure situation. Say, Australia 2, Great Britain 2, three minutes left to play. Oh, and it is an Olympic semi-final, and Australia are favourites. How did Kerly manage to avoid the pressure? Simple, by completing his hat-trick: Kerly the raptor in jumper No 13.

Naturally enough, Kerly is not a millionaire television pundit. He is sales manager for Poole Pottery. I met him at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham where he had been spending the week talking up country-kitchen-type cups and saucers.

He has a wife and three children and he had given up hockey, really, for good, when Steven Batchelor, his old striking partner, gave him a call. "Why don't we resurrect the old firm? Batchelor and Kerly: creation and finishing, goals our speciality." Well, why

not? Batchelor is coach at Richmond: Kerly went for a game.

Well, Kerly played, with the result already mentioned, and then he went home — high as a kite. Oh, that terrible drug: sport. Team sport. "I've missed the team thing so much," Kerly said. "In business, people forget you are in it together and that you're supposed to be trying to achieve a joint goal; and that is a special side to achieving something. Achieving it together."

Kerly never saw himself as the oddball individual in the greater team. He was just the one who took responsibility at those vital moments, those foot-wide gaps. The joint goal.

So to Richmond. "I thought I'd be miles off the pace," he said. "Playing with Steve again, all the little moves we got going at Southgate, and internationally, it was a real pleasure to play with him again." Addictive stuff, this sport. After all, there is nobody in the tabloids saying: "Come on Sean, hang up your boots: the game's been good to you." He can just get on with it. There are times — mostly when the non-existent pay-day is long past — when it really is quite good to be an amateur.



FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP



Yorkie two goals against Bolton

STRIKING

LAST season, the top striking partnership in the FA Carling Premiership was Shearer and Sutton, for Blackburn Rovers, the "SAS" as they were known, who accounted for 38 goals in 34 league games (11 goals each). This season, that partnership has ceased to exist, with Shearer a long force to be reckoned with. The new ones have emerged (with 20 goals each) as a duo, at Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa, Arsenal and Coventry City. Fowler and Collinsworth, 25 goals, are narrowly ahead of Armstrong and Shearer (24). Whelan has hit it with 20 goals. Coventry, adding seven goals to the ten matches that he has played for his new club, and boosting their unlikely combination to 21 goals.

The only improving pairing on last year's list is First and Bright (22 goals), the former player having a wretched 1994-95 with injury. It is noteworthy that both Manchester clubs are having problems with their striking duo. Cole and Cantona, of United, have only 17 after scoring 25 in 1994-95, when the former player joined the club after 14 games and the latter was suspended for the last 16 league games. Robson and Duffin, of City, made 32 three last season but have managed just 14 this campaign.

GOALSCORERS

Player	Goals
Shearer (Blackburn)	24
Fowler (Liverpool)	24
Armstrong (Tottenham)	24
Shearer (Aston Villa)	24
Whelan (Aston Villa)	20
Whelan (Coventry)	20
Whelan (Coventry)	20
Whelan (Coventry)	20

COCA-COLA CUP

Team	Goals
Shearer (Blackburn)	24
Fowler (Liverpool)	24
Armstrong (Tottenham)	24
Shearer (Aston Villa)	24
Whelan (Aston Villa)	20
Whelan (Coventry)	20
Whelan (Coventry)	20
Whelan (Coventry)	20

TODAY

GERRY Francis, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, is likely to leave out Romney Rosenthal against West Ham United in their FA Carling Premiership match at White Hart Lane this evening.

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Palace	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
2. Derby	10	5	3	2	17	11	18
3. Luton	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
4. Millwall	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
5. Oldham	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
6. Portsmouth	10	3	3	4	12	15	12
7. Stoke	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
8. Tranmere	10	2	4	4	10	17	10
9. Watford	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
10. West Brom	10	2	2	6	8	19	8

SECOND DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bradford	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
2. Bristol City	10	5	3	2	17	11	18
3. Burnley	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
4. Carlisle	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
5. Hull	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
6. Oxford	10	3	3	4	12	15	12
7. Peterborough	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
8. Swinsea	10	2	4	4	10	17	10
9. Walsall	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
10. Wycombe	10	2	2	6	8	19	8

THIRD DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Colchester	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
2. Doncaster	10	5	3	2	17	11	18
3. Fulham	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
4. Gillingham	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
5. Luton	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
6. Northampton	10	3	3	4	12	15	12
7. Preston	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
8. Rochdale	10	2	4	4	10	17	10
9. Southend	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
10. Torquay	10	2	2	6	8	19	8

GOALSCORERS

Player	Goals
Shearer (Blackburn)	24
Fowler (Liverpool)	24
Armstrong (Tottenham)	24
Shearer (Aston Villa)	24
Whelan (Aston Villa)	20
Whelan (Coventry)	20
Whelan (Coventry)	20
Whelan (Coventry)	20

BELL'S Insurance League

PREMIER DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Arsenal	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
2. Chelsea	10	5	3	2	17	11	18
3. Liverpool	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
4. Manchester United	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
5. Newcastle	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
6. Tottenham	10	3	3	4	12	15	12
7. Wimbledon	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
8. Wolves	10	2	4	4	10	17	10
9. Yeovil	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
10. York City	10	2	2	6	8	19	8

FIRST DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Arsenal	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
2. Chelsea	10	5	3	2	17	11	18
3. Liverpool	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
4. Manchester United	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
5. Newcastle	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
6. Tottenham	10	3	3	4	12	15	12
7. Wimbledon	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
8. Wolves	10	2	4	4	10	17	10
9. Yeovil	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
10. York City	10	2	2	6	8	19	8

SECOND DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Arsenal	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
2. Chelsea	10	5	3	2	17	11	18
3. Liverpool	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
4. Manchester United	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
5. Newcastle	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
6. Tottenham	10	3	3	4	12	15	12
7. Wimbledon	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
8. Wolves	10	2	4	4	10	17	10
9. Yeovil	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
10. York City	10	2	2	6	8	19	8

THIRD DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Arsenal	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
2. Chelsea	10	5	3	2	17	11	18
3. Liverpool	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
4. Manchester United	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
5. Newcastle	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
6. Tottenham	10	3	3	4	12	15	12
7. Wimbledon	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
8. Wolves	10	2	4	4	10	17	10
9. Yeovil	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
10. York City	10	2	2	6	8	19	8

NON LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

League	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
UNIBOND	1. Arsenal	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
	2. Chelsea	10	5	3	2	17	11	18
	3. Liverpool	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
	4. Manchester United	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
	5. Newcastle	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
	6. Tottenham	10	3	3	4	12	15	12
	7. Wimbledon	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
	8. Wolves	10	2	4	4	10	17	10
	9. Yeovil	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
	10. York City	10	2	2	6	8	19	8
ICIS	1. Arsenal	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
	2. Chelsea	10	5	3	2	17	11	18
	3. Liverpool	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
	4. Manchester United	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
	5. Newcastle	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
	6. Tottenham	10	3	3	4	12	15	12
	7. Wimbledon	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
	8. Wolves	10	2	4	4	10	17	10
	9. Yeovil	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
	10. York City	10	2	2	6	8	19	8
BEAZER HOMES	1. Arsenal	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
	2. Chelsea	10	5	3	2	17	11	18
	3. Liverpool	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
	4. Manchester United	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
	5. Newcastle	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
	6. Tottenham	10	3	3	4	12	15	12
	7. Wimbledon	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
	8. Wolves	10	2	4	4	10	17	10
	9. Yeovil	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
	10. York City	10	2	2	6	8	19	8

GOALS

Player	Goals
Shearer (Blackburn)	24
Fowler (Liverpool)	24
Armstrong (Tottenham)	24
Shearer (Aston Villa)	24
Whelan (Aston Villa)	20
Whelan (Coventry)	20
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Whelan (Coventry)	20

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Arsenal	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
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3. Liverpool	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
4. Manchester United	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
5. Newcastle	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
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7. Wimbledon	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
8. Wolves	10	2	4	4	10	17	10
9. Yeovil	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
10. York City	10	2	2	6	8	19	8

SECOND DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
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4. Manchester United	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
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9. Yeovil	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
10. York City	10	2	2	6	8	19	8

THIRD DIVISION

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Arsenal	10	6	2	2	18	10	20
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3. Liverpool	10	4	4	2	15	12	16
4. Manchester United	10	4	3	3	14	13	15
5. Newcastle	10	3	4	3	13	14	13
6. Tottenham	10	3	3	4	12	15	12
7. Wimbledon	10	3	2	5	11	16	11
8. Wolves	10	2	4	4	10	17	10
9. Yeovil	10	2	3	5	9	18	9
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GOALS

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Whelan (Coventry)	20
Whelan (Coventry)	20
Whelan (Coventry)	20

Gambler Keegan stakes claim for title

Simon Barnes sees Newcastle's Colombian import inspire a 2-1 victory over Middlesbrough

No wonder Kevin Keegan does not fancy the England job. The traditional way to win a league championship is to hang tough in February and March; as weariness creeps in, to acquire the precious, point-gathering art of playing badly and winning.

Not Keegan, not Newcastle United. His response to hearing the distant sound of pursuing feet was to spend £7.5 million and buy one of the greatest and most exciting players on the world stage. Faustino Asprilla more or less exploded into English football on Saturday, winning a match that looked lost and, at a guess, acting as the catalyst for the final transmutation of Newcastle into champions.

It is not that the vast resources at his disposal make Keegan's job as Newcastle manager easy, but they do offer him the unparalleled opportunity to dare. Keegan is a restless soul who loves to gamble, so he went for this Colombian player, a man with an equivocal reputation, ready, almost eager, to face colossal amounts of hostile criticism. Then the chance to see the gamble begin to come off. What other job in English football could offer that?

Keegan is a gambler all right, always seeking to put his reputation on the line. His sale of Andy Cole, the Newcastle love-object, proved that last season. The introduction of Asprilla is but further confirmation of Keegan as compulsive high roller. He got Asprilla's work permit through on Friday and flew the player in by private jet on Saturday morning. Asprilla arrived at Upton Park, offered him lunch; he said that he would take just a glass of wine. What better pre-match meal?

Keegan's instinct was to play him, but the lack of match fitness, plus Asprilla's admission that he had received a knock in training in

the week, put him on the bench. Well, why not? It was more dramatic that way. Gamblers have a taste for drama.

So Middlesbrough set about winning the game, set about punting their gloomy sequence of six successive defeats behind them. Barrow and Juninho ran and ran at Newcastle, causing them all kinds of problems. Juninho, the Brazilian — what is happening to English football, excellence or something? — was in inspired form, scintillating dizzily all over the place.

His cross should have been put away by Wilkinson, but, instead, Beresford saved him the trouble with an own goal. Barrow had three chances to make it 2-0, but, alas, he had forgotten how to score. So, as Middlesbrough played with seven men behind the ball, enter Asprilla.

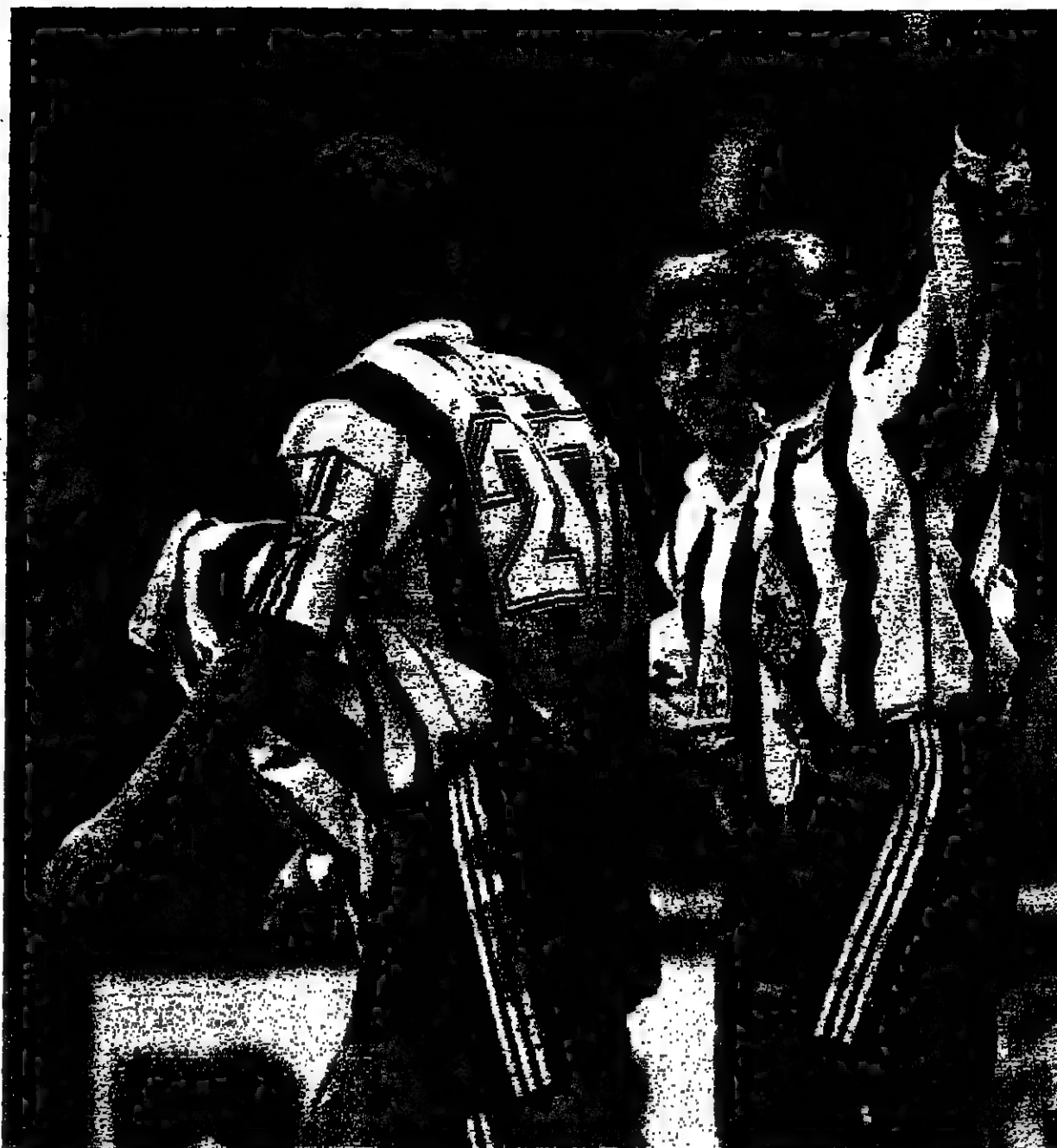
'Asprilla exploded into English football'

hit. Maybe he had been eyeing the skills of English defenders.

It was a nice contrast in South Americans: Juninho is all scintilla and bustle. Asprilla is the more traditionally languid model. He showed that he has quite exceptional skills and the strength to exploit them.

The way that he set up the equaliser was one of those little vignettes of perfection that you get in football from time to time. Vickers, his victim, did not appreciate it. Nor did Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, who muttered in his managerly way about allowing Asprilla the extra yard of space.

Tush! If Vickers had been tighter on him, Asprilla would have beaten him with a different trick, and Robson would have told us that Vickers should have stood further off.



Asprilla points the way ahead for Newcastle supporters after turning the tide against Middlesbrough

As it was, Asprilla dragged him one way, then the other, and then, in the most nonchalant way in the world, flicked a short, measured cross for Watson to nod home.

Asprilla continued to cause dismay in the Middlesbrough defence, and it was his tactics that allowed Beardsley to intercept and feed Ferdinand.

Ferdinand did not hit the chance cleanly; had he done so, Welsh would probably have saved it. He was beaten,

as cricketers say, by the lack of pace, diving over the ball in a way that brought to mind Gary Sprake. The error looked worse than it was, but it was enough to do for Middlesbrough.

"I won't tell him where to play," Keegan said, happily smashing the manager's myth of total control. "I'll just say: 'Do your thing, and we'll fit in with you.'"

"We'll just light the blue touch-paper and let him get on with it. He is the sort of

player who will flourish at this club — a free spirit."

Asprilla had a lovely afternoon. Above all, he looked as if he wanted to play, rather than to collect cheques. Furthermore, he is only 26, far from an Italian league cast-off.

How long will he last? The European Cup beckons Newcastle next season: a factor that was surely of no little significance in Asprilla's decision to move to the North East.

That, and an affinity for the manager — a shared gambler's instinct — a shared feeling that free spirits go out and seize their moment rather than lurk about with seven men behind the ball, waiting for it to come.

MIDDLESBROUGH (2-0-1): G. Welsh — N. Pearson, S. Vickers, P. Whelan — N. Cole, P. Barrow, C. Lewis, A. Smith, J. Pugh, G. Morris — Juninho (sub C. Higgins, 76), N. Barrow — P. Wilkinson.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-1-1): P. Beardsley — W. Barrow, P. Albert, D. Ferdinand, S. Beardsley — K. Gillespie (sub F. Asprilla, 66), L. Clark, R. Lee, S. Watson — P. Beardsley, S. Ferdinand. Referee: S. Dunn.

Bolton about to bow out ungracefully

Bolton Wanderers 0
Aston Villa 2
BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

BOLTON Wanderers will leave the Premiership in two months, taking with them a few memories and a thousand curses. Their supporters may console themselves, as others have done before them, with the knowledge that ambition outstripped the team's grasp. For the players and Colin Todd, the manager, the disappointment will be sharper. Despite spending a small fortune on strengthening the team that won promotion last spring, Bolton cannot score goals at this level, and let in soft ones. Branagan, a fine goalkeeper who had another notable game on Saturday, is entitled to wonder what goes through the minds of the men who are supposed to protect him. Currie, the dazzling Serb midfielder player, could also be criticised.

This was a two-goal drubbing. Villa scored once in each half, through Yorkie, and should have doubled their score at the very least. Yorkie, Draper and Milosevic might each have scored a hat-trick but for Branagan, and Johnson hit a post. Their mastery was complete and a clever little side is taking shape, a side clever enough to win a cup and maybe the Cup.

At the end of a week when overseas players hogged the headlines, it is wise to recall Sir Thomas Beecham's famous words about foreign conductors. "Why do we bother to import so many third-raters," he asked, giving the pot a mischievous stir, "when we have so many second-raters of our own?"

Brolin cannot get in the Leeds United team. Hottiger left Newcastle United because he was a fringe player and Silenzi had barely a look-in at Nottingham Forest. Sneekes, the Dutchman who plays in Bolton's midfield, is not obviously better than a dozen native-born players. As for de Freitas, a clumsy striker, the prudent shopper could have bought him for a pittance.

Then, there is the home-grown inadequate. Bolton

bought Blake, the Welsh centre forward from Sheffield United for £1 million, and he has yet to score in nine matches. From his portly appearance, he appears to train on a land diet. Think a million pounds for a moderate player! In their desperation to preserve status and reputation, football clubs continue to throw away money that would keep a regional theatre going for years.

At such times, when they imagine the world is against them, managers believe that everything is a conspiracy. You might think that Todd has more urgent matters to attend than the "appalling" standards of refereeing, but no. "It's time they were sorted out," he said. Fine. So long as he and his kind also "sort out" the duff players, who earn thousands of pounds a week and still do not understand the laws of the game.

Why should a linesman endure the sort of ear-battering that one got here from Staunton — a volley of abuse that lasted 20 seconds from a player who could not possibly know that he was right? Do managers haul their players in after a match and tell them such behaviour is unacceptable? Of course not: referees are incompetent, players are incontinent, the game, meanwhile, goes to the dogs.

There is one easy way to improve standards of refereeing: send former players out with the whistle. In cricket, no sooner have players retired than they are back on the field in white coats, putting something back into the game. Rugby men devote lives to this difficult job, but football, alas, does not inspire the same loyalty to the game.

Partisanship is all, on both sides of the fence. The Villa supporters began the match with a laudatorial chant about the run-down state of Burnden Park. Of course, when you come from the most beautiful city in Europe, it must be terribly irksome to visit less distinguished places.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-0-2): h. Brolin — S. Green, G. Beagrie (sub A. Thompson, 66), C. Fardingham, J. Phillips, J. Sneekes, A. Silenzi, S. Currie, S. Silenzi — J. McKinnon, 70 — F. de Freitas, N. Silenzi. **ASTON VILLA (2-0-0):** M. Bostrom — G. Charles, U. Ekechi, G. Sougoult, S. Staunton, A. Vardy — M. Dwyer, S. Townsend — T. Johnson, D. Yorkie, S. Milosevic. Referee: G. Hurley.

Rangers reliant on Gascoigne conquering the enemy within

Rangers may be making measured progress towards the title, but Paul Gascoigne keeps tripping over his temperament. The England midfielder player fell twice in quick succession on Saturday. The first stumble was laudable, a testimony to his craft, as he induced the foul by Chris McCarr for which his team received a penalty. It was converted by Alfie McColl and secured a 3-2 win over Motherwell in the Belf's Scottish League premier division match at Ibrox. Almost immediately after being floored, though, Gascoigne was to let himself down.

He picked himself up and, gloating over his success, shouted at McCarr and waved a fist in his face. Willie Young, the referee, quite properly booked Gascoigne for his boorishness. The player was fortunate that a gesture with his middle finger earlier in the game went undetected. The Scottish FA has already written to Rangers regarding Gascoigne's excesses. One sometimes wonders if the Englishman's prodigious earnings are being supplemented by a fertile mind when it comes to indiscipline and seems to be exploring fresh ways of collecting bookings. On occasion, Gascoigne has been a victim of humourless officialdom. During the match with Hibernian in December, the player picked up a yellow card that had fallen from the referee's pocket and wagged it at Douglas Smith, the official, who then retrieved it and used it in

earnest to caution Gascoigne.

There was a degree of sympathy for the player against Patrick Thistle last weekend when he was booked for some entirely wholesome celebrations after one of the two goals merely because he stepped off the pitch before indulging in them. By and large, however, Gascoigne has not been wronged since joining Rangers last summer.

Referees can be intolerant of his high spirits, but they have, at times, been lenient over the high elbows with which he has been known to

KEVIN MCCARRA



Scottish commentary

ward off challenges. It was unfortunate that Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, should have termed the general treatment of the player "indiscipline".

Gascoigne should not, on balance, complain about his disciplinary record. It is a reasonably accurate index of his conduct. He has now been booked in each of the two matches after his suspension.

Gascoigne is usually guilty of indiscipline rather than cynicism, and one can barely imagine him felling an opponent with a callous tackle. It

exasperates managers that his offences are always so glaringly avoidable. The wait for Gascoigne, 26, to achieve maturity has been a long vigil and perhaps it never will be rewarded. The degree of frustration for his coaches has always risen with the level of performance from the Englishman. Accordingly, Smith must, at present, be consumed by exasperation. After four years of grave injury, Gascoigne is once more a vital figure who can determine the outcome of matches and, perhaps, a championship.

Without him, Rangers lost 3-0 at home to Heart of Midlothian last month because, industriously though they pressed forward, there was never the invention to disturb the composure that saw the visitors counter-attack so adroitly. On Saturday, Gascoigne always looked capable of raising the game to a level beyond the reach of adventurous Motherwell.

While Gascoigne conceded victory, Celtic, at Brockville, recorded a second successive goalless draw in away games. Tommy Burns's team is not quite so capable as Rangers of producing the explosive moment that breaks a deadlock. That fact is announced by the figures — Rangers have scored 15 goals more than Celtic in the league.

The three-point lead held by the Ibrox club can scarcely be decisive, given Celtic's bounding improvement this season, but Rangers' prospects of retaining in front over the next three months will be enhanced if Gascoigne can keep himself under control.



Gascoigne shows his aggressive style against Motherwell

Conference big guns set sights on Wembley

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY KEITH PIKE

THE standard-bearers may have fallen, but the heavy artillery of the Vauxhall Conference remains largely unscathed. Encouraged or alerted by Woking's surprise elimination from the FA Umbro Trophy, which they had won for the past two seasons, their Conference colleagues avoided any large-scale repeat of the embarrassment in the second round on Saturday.

There were some casualties, among

them Altrincham, twice winners, but, on a day when every tie produced a decisive result, seven Conference sides got through to the last 16. Few will look beyond them for the eventual Wembley winners.

For Macclesfield Town and Stevenage Borough, the prospect of a Conference and Trophy double remains alive. Both capitalised on home advantage with 2-1 victories, Macclesfield accounting for Purfleet — shock previous conquerors of Rushden — and Diamonds — and Stevenage beating Burton Albion thanks

to a sixteenth goal of the season from Barry Hayles, the striker who is attracting considerable interest from leading senior clubs.

Altrincham, weakened by injury and suspension and tormented by Mick Norbury, were soundly beaten away to Guiseley and had Anderson sent off — their tenth dismissal of the season — in the process. Hyde United, Guiseley's UniBond League colleagues, claimed another Conference scalp, beating Welling United 4-1, Kimmins getting all four Hyde goals in the first half.

first direct

06:30



Ian Francis enjoys his breakfast and settles his Visa bill.

11:15



Jake O'Sullivan teases his mother as she asks about her mortgage.

23:30



Bob Sparks wakes with a start and calls to pay his gas bill.

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Kravets falls short while Kravitz is set for high jumping comeback

Hansen leaps among world's elite

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

EVEN without Jonathan Edwards, Great Britain have started this Olympic year one jump ahead of the rest of the world. Ashia Hansen's British and Commonwealth women's triple jump record in the Ricoh Tour at Birmingham on Saturday was all the more meaningful for the scalps it gave her. Hansen's mark was the best in the world this year, as was Steve Smith's in the high jump.

It was a day when the names of Kravets and Kravitz came up. Hansen beat Inessa Kravets, the outdoor world champion and world record-holder, as well as Iva Prandzheva, the world championship runner-up. Smith was wondering whether he should go back to Lenny Kravitz.

Two years ago, Smith set a British and Commonwealth indoor record of 2.38 metres in a high jump to music competition in Wuppertal, Germany. Ten days ago, he returned to Wuppertal and managed only 2.30 metres. "One of the most embarrassing performances," Smith said. "I tried Frankie

Birmingham results 30

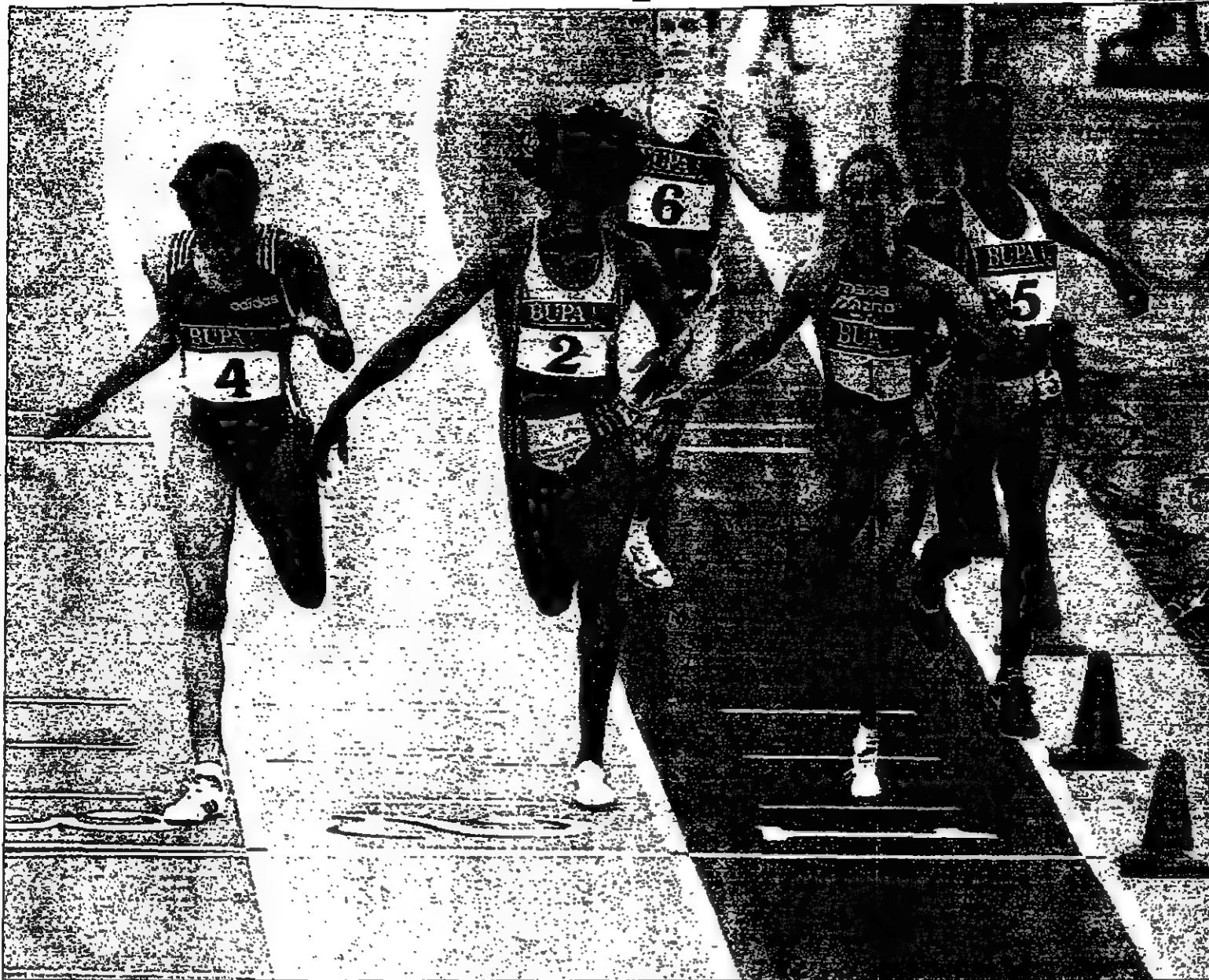
Goes to Hollywood at Wuppertal and it didn't work, so I may go back to Lenny Kravitz.

Even without music, which helps the jumpers into their rhythm, Smith cleared 2.36 metres in Birmingham. Not only was Smith without music, but also opposition. too. Steinar Hoen, the European champion, from Norway, abandoned the competition at 2.34 metres, with just the two of them left in, because he had a flight to catch to his next meeting. Who cares about the paying public?

Hoen was off to Balingen, Germany, for a musical high jump yesterday and wanted to catch the evening flight. Smith followed yesterday morning. "I would never think of leaving a competition if I had just jumped 2.34," Smith said, "but he has not got a British crowd to think of like I have. That is where my priorities lie."

Something will have to be done about the jumping surface at the National Indoor Arena. Two British high jumpers, Brendan Reilly and Andrew Lynch, have ruptured Achilles tendons on it recently because, Smith suspects, the surface gives underfoot. It required taping during the competition. "I was very aware of it at the beginning, but it is no use worrying about it," Smith said.

Hansen added 29 centimetres to her British record with 14.58 metres. Prandzheva was second with 14.56 metres. Inna Lasovskaya, the European indoor champion, third



Hemmings, left, wins the 400 metres in Birmingham with Farmer-Patrick and Gunnell, both of whom were later disqualified, straining to finish

with 14.52 metres and Kravets a disappointing fourth with 14.27 metres.

Coaches are hard people to satisfy. "She was not as quick on the runway as I have seen her the last two weeks," was the critical view of Frank Attoh, Hansen's coach. "There is at least 30 or 40 centimetres to come, hopefully indoors."

By tonight, Britain could have a new world record-holder. Tony Jarrett, after his sprint hurdles victory over Allen Johnson, the indoor and outdoor world champion, is in Tampere, Finland, looking to break the rarely-run mark for the indoor 110 metres hurdles.

"Hopefully I can do it," Jarrett said. Nevertheless, he admitted: "It does not have a great deal of significance." The record, held by Johnson, is 13.34sec.

British athletics is enjoying an encouraging start to the year. There were fresh indications in the week that Diane Modahl may have her name cleared of drugs allegations by the International Amateur Athletic Federation: television figures show that the Great Britain versus Russia indoor

international attracted four million Saturday afternoon viewers, within a million of the number who watched the rugby union international between England and France; two seven-figure sponsorships have been announced. British athletes are performing well; and Sally Gunnell is back.

Gunnell's disqualification from the 400 metres for breaking lane early in her first international race after prolonged injury hardly mattered. What was important was that she gave a close race to Sandra Farmer-Patrick and Deon Hemmings, two challengers for her Olympic 400 metres hurdles crown.

"The important thing was to give it a real go and be competitive," Gunnell, who reported no problem with the heel injury that ruled her out last year, said. She did exactly that.

Olympic threat to Nigeria

By DAVID POWELL

THERE was anger in the running of Davidson Ezinwa and Christy Opara, respective winners of the men's and women's 60 metres at the Ricoh Tour meeting in Birmingham on Saturday.

Ezinwa and Opara are Nigerians who should be finalists in the 100 metres at the Olympics Games in Atlanta this summer. Should be, but will they be allowed to compete?

Both were disturbed by reports from the United States in the week that suggested that moves were afoot on Capitol Hill to have Nigeria's athletes barred from Atlanta. Sanctions against Nigeria's military government were being examined by the State Department

after the hugging of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the dissident. Embargoes on arms and oil, and a hard line on sport, were under consideration.

Ezinwa and Opara urged the politicians not to use sport to exert pressure on their Government to end human rights abuses. "They cannot sanction Nigeria in an economic way, we sanction them in sport," Opara, the 1994 Commonwealth Games 100 metres runner-up, said.

"It is not sport that is causing what is going on in Nigeria now, it is oil, but they are talking about banning athletes," Ezinwa said. "If they stop Nigeria coming to the Olympics, it is not the Government they are hugging, it's the athletes."

Ezinwa has had more than his share of setbacks caused by the politics of his sport. Though an Olympic finalist in 1992, he was left out of the Nigeria team for the 1993 world championships in Stuttgart because he did not appear at the national trials. The runner-up to Linford Christie in the 1990 Commonwealth Games, he was omitted for the next Games, in 1994, again for failing to run the trials.

In 1995, he missed the world championships in Gothenburg through injury. Having won the first two races on the Ricoh Tour, he feels that he has built a platform for Atlanta. Now, the politicians are causing him more worries than are Christie and Donovan Bailey.

Only hot dogs and Tigers fail to satisfy

Stuart Jones squeezes into Crystal Palace

for an evening of non-stop hockey action

Finals night of the indoor hockey club championship at the Crystal Palace sports centre was packed, and on a foul February night, as well. The place was also very noisy, principally because of the vociferous contingent supporting East Grinstead.

A thousand seats, arrayed along one side, were full. So were the hospitality boxes, stretched along one end. Spectators, with no choice but to stand behind a railing, lined the other side and end.

There was no less space in between the eight matches, one of which was an exhibition featuring school sides. Play was continuous, apart from intervals of three minutes and gaps of five minutes, for more than seven hours. At £7.50, the entrance fee represented good value for money.

The refreshments did not. A hamburger stall, tucked away in the nether regions of the complex, offered the only hot food available. Timing was everything as no more than one person was on duty and she was distinctly harassed.

Similar exasperation was evident back in the arena. Uncommonly, the players shook hands with their opponents before as well as after

they tussled with them, but such amiable propriety was not shown to the officials, particularly by the aptly named Barford Tigers.

The runners-up last year, they had won all five of their matches in the preliminary round, held over two days in the middle of January. They opened in the tournament, though, by being beaten by Hull and they lost their composure as well.

Miscellaneous were not shown a yellow card but an inconspicuously inconspicuous green triangle. The Barford Tigers earned several of them, all for dissent. Their followers also angrily accused those in charge of, among other crimes, "knowing nothing about the game because they had never played it".

Amid the increasingly petulant verbal protestations on and off the converted basketball court, though, could be seen the outstanding individual of the event. Amarjit Deegun caught the eye for his sleight of stick.

Even with his dazzling wizardry, the Tigers fared no better in their other pool matches. They went down to Old Loughborough, as they had by a similarly narrow margin in the final a year ago.

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SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

East-West game Dealer North

♠ 10 9 8 2	♥ 8 7 6 4
♦ A K Q J 8	♠ 7 6 5 4 3
♣ A 6 5	♥ J 8 6 5 4 3
	♦ K 7
♠ A K Q 10 8 5	♠ A K Q 10 8 5
♥ 7	♥ 7
♦ A 4	♦ A 4
♣ 10 9 4 2	♣ 10 9 4 2

The good Six Spades was missed at all by tables in the first round of the 1995 Premier League matches. What usually happened was that South responded One Spade to North's One Diamond, and thereafter could not catch up. This is a possible Acol auction:

N	E
1D	2S
4C(1)	4D(1)
5S(2)	6S(5)
Pass	

1. A cue-bid confirming spades; 2. Have you got a heart control? 3. Yes.

It is much better to make a first-round jump shift on the South hand, by responding Two Spades, you establish a game-force early on and you can then repeat your suit on the next round to show the quality of the spades.

The key to the successful Acol auction above is North's appreciation of the value of the jack of spades. This represents

good support for a suit that South has rebid after a jump shift. South's Four Diamond cue-bid, showing the ace, is also good news for North, because he can now see lots of tricks. North makes a bid, Five Hearts, that forces South to go to slam with a control in the unbid suit.

The slam is made easily after the king of hearts lead and a club switch. South takes the ace of clubs, cashes the jack of spades and ruffs a heart to get back to hand to draw trumps. The fall of the ace of hearts gives South an easy 12 tricks without having to worry about the 5-1 diamond break. South's declarer play would be tested more on an unlikely-club lead, though he will still be able to succeed by squeezing West in the red suit.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

MORE WATCHING

By Philip Howard

MITHRIDATSE

a. To flaunt extravagance
b. To hamstring
c. To immunise

SUCCUSSIO

a. Shaking
b. An afterthought
c. Cactus-grafting

AUTOCHTHON

a. Self-reproducing
b. A sports car
c. Aboriginal

FACINOROUS

a. Good at filing
b. Eloquent
c. Exceedingly wicked

Answers on page 40

Higenbotham in fine form as Manchester net two titles

By DAVID POWELL

ROCHESTER is not just Rochester, but, as the tourist signs tell visitors, Historic Rochester. There is the 11th century Rochester Castle, a cathedral that is the second oldest in England, a Dickensian connection, and, if you visit in November, Great Britain's oldest annual five-mile road race. Yesterday, history was in the making again.

The biggest weekend of the year for young netball players comes with certain guarantees. Competition will be keen, the noise will be deafening, and Greater Manchester will win something. What has never happened in the annual inter-counties schools championships is for Sussex to reach a final.

Their previous best was ninth, but, at the Stirling Sports Centre, they reached the final of the under-16 tournament. They lost to mighty Manchester, but gave them a game, 10-8 the score. Manchester did the double, beating Birmingham 14-12 in the under-18 final.

This is serious success in domestic netball. Such is the importance of the tournament that the counties, even those from nearby, book into hotels. The cost of the weekend to each county is at least £2,000. "Our attitude is very professional," Rachel Foley, the England Under-16 coach, said. "We are hampered by the image of it being a schoolgirl game."

Foley attributes Manchester's success to enthusiastic officials, a sound club and school structure, role models and luck. Luck because, compared with counties the size of Sussex, Manchester is a small area with a high concentration of people.

"Accessibility is so much greater," Foley said. Sussex sprawls by comparison. Players have to commit to travel and, according to Sandra Scragg, the Sussex coach, there is a greater disparity of styles when players come from a wide area.

Manchester's role models inspire newcomers. According to Foley, "When you have one England player, the kudos develops and expectation becomes higher." Manchester had nine on show at the weekend. The next best counties had England players in ones and twos.

The present success started

with Tracey Neville, an England Under-21 goal attack. It makes a change to have one attacker in the Neville family; Gary and Phillip, her footballing brothers, defend for Manchester United.

In common with many sports, netball has suffered through changes in the national curriculum. "The amount played in schools, and the quality, was affected," Foley said; but she sees signs of a recovery.

The prospects for the future of the England team look encouraging," she said. They

Photograph 30
Schools results 30

have a hard act to follow: England were fourth in the world championships in Birmingham last year.

However, rising players will be expected to learn a standard England style. Australia and New Zealand, first and third at the world championship, have been studied and copied. "We have looked at their styles, which are very different, and taken the best things that are worth us developing into our style," Foley said.

"It is beginning to filter down to these people here. This is something the All England Netball Association has taken on since the world championship." Come the next world tournament, in New Zealand in 1999, Rochester may seem far behind for some of the winners yesterday.

"There are certainly some youngsters here who could be playing for that squad," Foley said. One who impressed her was Liz Higenbotham, the Manchester Under-16 centre. She has "lovely wrists," apparently.

Fading wrists can fool the opposition, and Sussex were fooled.

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Computer's sensational win

Garry Kasparov, the world champion, has suffered a sensational reverse in the first game of his six-game match against IBM's Deep Blue computer. This is the first time that a world champion has lost to a computer at the normal tournament time rate of 40 moves in two hours.

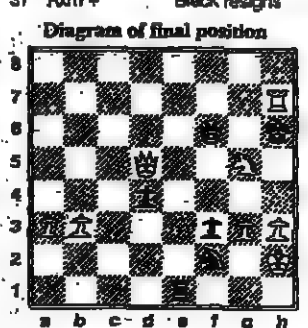
IBM's Deep Blue sees 512 million different positions every second. The question must be whether such immense calculating power can translate into the strategic and tactical creativity required for victory on the chessboard.

From the start of the first game, Kasparov seemed ill at ease. His second move blew the position wide open, when conventional wisdom dictates that a closed strategy is the prudent course against computers. Kasparov's tenth move... Bb4 looked artificial, and, after this bishop was driven out of play on the queen's flank, the computer systematically set about inflicting weaknesses on Kasparov's pawns.

White: Deep Blue
Black: Garry Kasparov
Philadelphia, January 1996
Stellian Defeat

1 e4	c5
2 c3	c5
3 e5d5	Qxd5
4 d4	M8
5 Nf3	Bg4
6 Be2	e6
7 h3	Bf5
8 0-0	Nc6
9 Be3	cxd4
10 cxd4	Bd4
11 e3	Ba5
12 Ne3	Qd7
13 Nc5	Qd7

14 Ne5	Ba2
15 Qa2	Ba2
16 Re1	Rac8
17 Bg5	Bb6
18 Bb6	g6
19 Nc4	Rfd8
20 Nxb6	exd6
21 Rf1	B
22 Qa3	Qf6
23 d5	Rac5
24 Rd5	axb5
25 b3	Kf8
26 Qxb5	Pg6
27 Qc5	d4
28 Nc6	N
29 Ne7+	Ne5
30 Qd5	B
31 g5	Nd3
32 Re7	Re8
33 Nc6	Re1+
34 Qe2	Ne2
35 Nc7+	Kg7
36 Ne5	Kf6
37 Rb7+	Black resigns



Correction

Last Thursday, there was an error in the diagram position. The position occurred after Black's 33rd move in the game Xie Jun - Polgar. The black bishop which appeared on the d8-square should have been on e6.

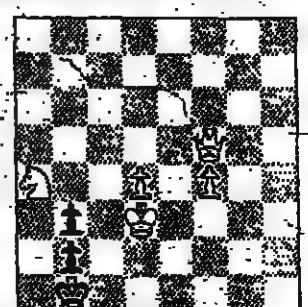
Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

MORE MOVES

By Raymond Keene

White to play and mate in two moves. This position is a problem composed by Lilian Baird, the amazing nine-year-old Brighton-based chess prodigy, in 1890. White obviously has an overwhelming material superiority in this position, but the problem is how to force checkmate in two moves against any black defence.

Solution on page 40





TOKEN

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
BANKS									
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ENGINEERING VEHICLES									
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FOOD MANUFACTURERS									
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BUILDING & CONSTRUCT									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
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ELECTRICITY									
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ELECTRONIC & ELECT									
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HEALTHCARE									
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HOUSEHOLD GOODS									
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ENGINEERING									
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CHEMICALS									
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DISTRIBUTORS									
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PHARMACEUTICALS									
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SUPPORT SERVICES									
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PRINTING & PAPER									
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4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
MINING									
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4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
LEISURE & HOTELS									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
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PROPERTY									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
TELECOMMUNICATIONS									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
TEXTILES & APPAREL									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
OIL & GAS									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
MEDIA									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
OTHER FINANCIAL									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
BRITISH FUNDS									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
SHORTS (under 5 years)									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
LONGS (over 15 years)									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
INDEX-TRACKING									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
RETAILERS, FOOD									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
RETAILERS, GENERAL									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
WATER									
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5
4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5	4500 Alstom	10.50	+0.10	4.8	10.5

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100%

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY

Interims: Amour Trust, Bryant Group, Second Alliance Trust.
Finals: Olin Convertible Trust, Economic statistics: UK January producer prices, IOD report on EU social policies.

TOMORROW

Interims: BOC Group (Q1).
Finals: British Petroleum, Johnson Fry Second Utilities Trust, Kleinwort Overseas Investment Trust, Reuters, St Modwen Properties, TR Pacific Investment Trust, Updown Investment, Warrants & Value Investment Trust.
Economic statistics: new construction orders (Dec), Retail Consortium January sales.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: Hanson (Q1).
Finals: Eagle Investment Trust, Flying Flowers, Lloyds Abbey Life, Scottish American Investment, Vardon.
Economic statistics: Bank of England quarterly inflation report, January labour market statistics.

THURSDAY

Interims: Amritage Brothers, Pantheon International Participations.
Finals: CLM Insurance Fund, General Consolidated Investment Trust, Greenstar Investment, Mersey Docks and Harbour, Royal Dutch/Shell, Ward Holdings.
Economic statistics: January retail prices index, US December factory orders, Bundesbank central council meeting.

FRIDAY

Interims: Birex Group.
Finals: Baring Tribune Investment Trust, Lloyds TSB.
Economic statistics: January PSBR, US November and December construction spending, US November business inventories.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: Buy Reuters, Johnson Matthey, Clubhaus, Hold Bryant, The Sunday Telegraph: Buy Vardon, Hanson, Transport Development, The Observer: Sell Redland, Buy WMI, The Independent on Sunday: Buy Johnson Matthey, BAA, Sell Eidos, The Mail on Sunday: Buy Wyndham Press.

Oil giants move into spotlight



BP's Sir David Simon will have found margins under pressure because of the petrol price war.

THE oil companies hold centre stage this week, with the "big two", BP and Shell, unveiling figures. However, the focus of attention will not be on their oil activities, but on just how badly their chemical interests have performed during the present downturn.

BP: Full-year figures tomorrow from the company, of which Sir David Simon is chairman, are likely to reveal a downturn in profits during the final quarter, reflecting problems within the chemicals division.

Bruce Evers, oil analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, is looking for net profits to grow by £90 million to £517 million, but with the group having achieved a third-quarter performance of £532 million, this is unlikely to inspire the City.

A combination of high exploration write-offs during the final quarter and a fall-off in activity on the chemicals side will be blamed for the downturn.

In addition, the group has suffered a 1 per cent reduction in volume, although domestic gas sales were higher in spite of surplus stocks and the warm weather.

Refining was flat during the third quarter, with margins under pressure. Margins, generally, will prove erratic at best — especially in the US. The petrol price war initiated after the Budget will have also put margins under pressure.

BP has announced plans to restructure its downstream assets. The £700 million charge will be taken below the line. The fourth-quarter dividend is expected to be maintained on the previous quarter, resulting in a total payout of 15p.

exceptional profits relating to Hong Kong property gains. Once that figure is stripped out, the group's performance becomes almost static. UBS, the broker, is forecasting profits outside the US to drop 30 per cent from the third-quarter level. This mainly reflects its reliance on the bulk polymers market.

Mr Evers, of Henderson, says: "Obviously, if earnings from either company disappoint, it will force people to trim their 1999 estimates."

HANSON: Having seen more

than £1 billion wiped from its stock market value since announcing plans to split the company, investors will not be hoping the share price can make up some of the loss ground when the first-quarter figures are announced on Wednesday. They are likely to be disappointed.

Analysts are forecasting a drop in pre-tax profits of about 6 per cent to £252 million, with earnings down about 4 per cent at 3.7p. This is in spite of a full contribution from Eastern Electricity, for which it paid £2.5 billion last year. Much of the

blame will lie with Quantum, the group's US operation.

REUTERS: The group has enjoyed double-digit revenue growth in recent years, but that looks set to change, which is why the City will be paying closer attention than usual to full-year figures tomorrow.

Towards the end of last year, Reuters braced the City for the first signs of a slowdown. In its phenomenal growth record by selling it to start expecting single-digit revenue growth. Even so, brokers are forecasting a 10 per

cent increase in pre-tax profits to almost £600 million, while earnings advance 15 per cent to 25p a share.

Much of the growth will be generated by the group's transition operations, including Instinet, its computerised securities trading system, which is expected to have enjoyed a robust performance. Word is that D2-2 will also have moved into the black. But even if there are signs of a slowdown, UBS, the broker, hopes this will be offset by possible news of a share buyback programme.

LLOYDS TSB: On Friday, the group will be publishing its first set of figures since merging towards the end of last year. They should make impressive reading, revealing the best trading profits of all Britain's banks. Pre-tax profits for the full year are expected to have grown by about 10 per cent to £2 billion, supported by a five-month contribution from its recent acquisition, Cheltenham & Gloucester, and further cost-cutting. But the figures will be hit by a charge of almost £300 million relating to restructuring. Shareholders are likely to be rewarded with a 15 per cent increase in the dividend to 11p.

BOC Group: First-quarter figures tomorrow are expected to reflect a buoyant industrial gases market. They should also highlight the benefits accruing from recent restructuring and investment. In fact, gases should provide the main thrust to a £19 million increase in pre-tax profits to £165 million. But trading conditions are less positive elsewhere in the group. BOC's healthcare operation has been hit by generic competition to its Forane treatment, while in the US, order books for anaesthetic equipment show signs of decline. The vacuum operation has also been a strong performer, but this is expected to be offset by a disappointing performance from the distribution side, where non-Marks & Spencer aspirins have come under fresh pressure. BOC is now embarking on a restructuring programme for this part of the business.

City expected to focus on Bank report

This week sees a string of key British statistics, kicking off today with January figures for costs and prices in industry. According to the consensus of forecasts compiled by MMS International, producer input prices are expected to rise by only 0.1 per cent, allowing the annual rate to fall to 4.4 per cent from 5.8 per cent in December.

Output prices paid at the factory gate are forecast to rise by 0.5 per cent, pushing the year-on-year increase down to 3.8 per cent from 4.3 per cent.

The next focus for the markets will be Wednesday's Quarterly Bulletin and Inflation Report from the Bank of England. This will be particularly closely looked at by the City for any further clues as to the Bank's attitude towards the second of two cuts in the base rate during January.

The Bank refused to comment on the cut, fuelling speculation that it had opposed the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the issue. The minutes of the January monthly monetary meeting are published on Wednesday next week.

Also this Wednesday comes publication of unemployment statistics for January, with the market consensus forecast looking for a fall in headline unemployment of 5,000, compared with the decline of 7,900 in December.

Annual average earnings growth in December is expected to have edged up to 3.5 per cent from 3.25 per cent, while year-on-year growth in unit wage costs is expected to remain at 4 per cent.

On Thursday, January retail prices figures are due to be published. Headline inflation is forecast to have dropped 0.3 per cent in January, taking the annual rate down to 2.9 per cent from 3.2 per cent. This underlying rate of inflation is expected to fall to 2.8 per cent from 3 per cent, and RPI-X, which excludes mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes, is forecast to stay unchanged at 2.1 per cent.

The last key British statistic of the week comes on Friday with the January public sector borrowing requirement. One of the key months for corporation tax receipts there is expected to be a net repayment of borrowing of £4.5 billion after a borrowing requirement of £1.04 billion in December.

One key international event to watch out for is the Thursday meeting of the Bundesbank's policy-making council, which will discuss German interest rate

JANET BUSI

Heavitree Brewery heads for listing

HEAVITREE BREWERY will soon join the growing swell of smaller independent breweries to float when it goes for a listing on the Alternative Investment Market. Heavitree follows a number of brewers which have seized on growing confidence in the fortunes of smaller drinks companies as the market gets increasingly tough for the larger businesses in a tight market.

The move may add a little sparkle to AIM, which has suffered from more lacklustre trading recently. Dealers report a general feeling of cau-

tion feeding through from the main stock market, which many watchers believe is sliding towards a correction. Julian Palfreyman of Winterfold Securities, which is one of the main players in AIM, said: "Last week was quite tough. Many eyes have been on Wall Street and there is some waiting to see what might happen before investors make too many moves."

Those shares which did shake up some action last week included SkyPharma, the pharmaceutical company which joined the market at the

start of the year with a valuation of £33.6 million, and Crown Products.

There was also some interest in Voss Net, the company which is marketing an interactive online electronic trading system, after it struck a licensing agreement with Petra Corporation, a US company operating in the same area. The deal means US exposure for Voss Net and could lead to expansion into the Pacific Rim.

The subdued activity this month contrasts with the strong start to the year made

by AIM. In January, turnover on the alternative exchange passed the £100 million a month mark for the first time when it reached £123.5 million. That figure had jumped 47 per cent from £84.3 million in December and was boosted by a number of new companies trading on AIM. The number on AIM is now 126.

The index for AIM shares, which was launched at the start of the year, rose nearly 5 per cent to 1049 over the month.

CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

Market sell-off is an opportunity to buy, not the start of a slide

Is history repeating itself? As in early 1994, gold prices are soaring, while yields on long gilts and ten-year German bonds are both about 40 basis points above their lows. Is a 1994-style bond market crash on the way?

In our view, the recent shake-out is a reasonable buying opportunity rather than the start of a big slide. We expect gilts to match or outperform the global norm, with long yields falling back to 7.7 per cent in the coming months. At the same time, sterling is likely to be among the strongest European currencies, rising above DMZ 35 this year.

There are three key differences between the current position and that of early 1994. First, global growth is weaker. In early 1994, business surveys in the US, UK and other EU countries showed rapid gains in new orders. By contrast, the last CBI survey showed falling business confidence and the weakest orders for three years. Business surveys in the US and other EU countries are even gloomier.

Secondly, the overhang of leveraged bond-market positions seems to be smaller. Sterling bank loans to UK-

based securities dealers rose by 23 per cent last year, whereas they rose by 90 per cent during the 1993 bond bubble. There has been no rerun of 1993's huge speculative buying of gilts by banks and overseas investors.

Finally, bond valuations are not as stretched. In early 1994, real long gilt yields were about 2.5 per cent, which allowed little margin for inflation risks. Now, real yields are 5 per cent — slightly above the average of the past decade. Moreover, inflation is likely to surprise on the downside. The consensus expects inflation to stay above the authorities' 2.5 per cent target for this year and next. However, lead inflation guides are pointing lower. Manufacturers' price expectations have weakened sharply and today's data are likely to show another big drop in output price inflation. Over the past decade, these indicators have been better than gold

as a guide to future inflation trends.

We expect underlying inflation to fall to 2.5 per cent later this year and to stay around that level next year. This would imply five consecutive years with inflation below 4 per cent, which is without precedent in 60 years outside wartime. The recent gains in the leading survey and credit are not a threat to this low-inflation scenario.

The credit surge largely reflects takeover activity rather than, as in the 1980s, higher spending on investment, consumption and mortgages. The takeover boom will give some boost to the real economy, but it is unlikely to push prices and payments to shareholders in target companies. However, these effects are quite weak compared with the spending boom that lay behind the credit surge during the 1980s. In any case, the economy has enough slack that a modest recovery in

growth will not cause as strains this year or next.

A rising pound, or resultant drop in import prices, could be the trigger for a gilt rally. Sentiment is likely to turn against the core ERM currencies because of the sharp slowdown in those economies. Although the UK economy has slowed, it is outpacing the core European economies by a wide margin.

The Bundesbank has signalled its desire for a lower mark, while the United Kingdom authorities probably would not resist a modest gain in the pound. Sterling is highly undervalued compared with its long-run norms and a slight rise would still leave exporters with a huge competitive edge.

Signs that inflation is retreating will allow base rates to fall to 6 per cent in the coming months. Unless the next government surprisingly loosens fiscal policy, then they are likely to stay around 6 per cent next year. In contrast to the sharply rising rate path shown by short sterling futures.

MICHAEL SAUNDERS
Salomon Brothers

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET									
Alt. Inv. Co.	Company	Price (pence)	Yield %	Div. %	P/E	Alt. Inv. Co.	Company	Price (pence)	P/E
15.50	AMCO Corp	109	- 3	5.2	12.0	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
46	2.12 Abacus Reput	118	- 18	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
19.20	A de Gruy	120	+ 5	5.4	10.8	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
11.60	African Gold	111	- 1	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
4.80	Altamira & Bt	13	- 2	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
10.50	Alpha Orion	20	- 5	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
27.30	Am St Brewery	390	- 5	5.6	11.7	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
5.30	Am St Cy Pl	895	- 11	8.9	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
71.10	Amstar	100	- 11	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
2.15	Amstar Progs	9	- 11	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
11.70	Amstar Progs	9	- 11	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
1.05	Amstar Progs	9	- 11	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
6.20	Balfour Beatty	6	- 2	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
4.60	Barr Hdg	18	- 2	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
3.55	Bellco	43	- 2	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
0.96	Bellco	43	- 2	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
5.02	Bellco	43	- 2	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
36.00	Bellco	43	- 2	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
0.94	CCI Hldgs	118	- 18	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
0.13	CCI Founder Shs	110	- 18	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
3.20	Cale Int	115	+ 10	2.2	9.5	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
7.95	Caladman Tst	70	- 10	0.5	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
13.50	Card Clear	71	- 10	0.5	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
3.25	Casualty Bus	60	- 8	6.2	6.5	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
1.87	Cavendish W F	43	- 8	6.2	6.5	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
4.99	Celebrated Group	17	- 1	21.6	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
17.50	Celco Pl Shs	6750	- 1	21.6	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
15.80	CI Contm(TV)	117	- 26	15.0	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
7.25	Charwell Int	65	- 26	15.0	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
0.99	Clan Homes	110	- 26	15.0	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
13.10	CluPartners	51	- 26	15.0	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
12.20	Clu de Pl Fin	510	- 26	15.0	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
7.50	Concor Tst	38	- 26	15.0	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
13.10	Country Gdn	71	+ 11	2.1	14.7	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
2.88	Cray Gdn Pl	73	+ 3	9.1	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
33.80	Cres Int	94	- 5	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
14.80	Crown Products	75	- 5	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
10.80	DBS Management	180	- 5	4.7	6.5	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
3.58	Dalco Int	35	- 1	5.5	9.4	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
52.20	Dawson Hdg	1140	+ 10	3.3	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
3.50	Dean Corp	12	- 4	...	70.2	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
13.50	Dental	72	- 4	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
93.80	Electronics Int	145	- 13	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
5.62	Euro Sales Fin	125	- 13	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
3.18	Fin Pol	135	- 21	...	63.9	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
24.50	Forestar	147	- 21	...	19.5	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
5.51	Forestar	215	- 21	...	0.4	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
6.81	Forest St	252	+ 30	1.5	21.2	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
17.50	Forestar	183	+ 30	3.1	5.1	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
4.80	Forling Homes	96	+ 1	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
28.20	Gander Hdg	94	+ 1	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
5.70	Greenhills	19	- 1	...	3.4	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
32.40	Groton	145	- 1	...	18.1	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
3.67	Hartm	125	- 1	...	0.3	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
56.80	Hiscox Ltd Int	109	- 1	...	1.2	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
14.40	Imer Worlgs	86	- 1	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
21.30	Int Greetings	513	- 1	...	13.5	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
3.67	Jennett	90	- 1	...	27.2	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
19.10	Jennett Bros	295	- 1	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
43.50	KS Biomedix	115	- 1	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
25.30	Lancashire Ent	240	- 1	...	...	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
14.80	Lawrence	2750	- 1	...	3.2	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
33.70	Lewis Group	2750	- 1	...	14.0	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...
44.80	Le Riches Shs	270	- 12	7.1	26.4	26.60	Amgen Inc	95	...

Answers from page 57

MITHRIDATISE
(4) Gradually to make immune to a poison, by the consumption over a long period of increasing doses. Eponym from Mithridates, King of Pontus from 120 to 63 BC, who is said to have so poisoned himself. "I tell thee that I heard told, Mithridates, he did eat." "No, the apocryphal story that he ate all the poisons of the world is a myth. He was a very clever man, but not a fool."

SUCCESION
(a) Shaking. It may not be widely known that Jerry Lee Lewis's masterpiece *Whole lotta shakin' gone* was originally scripted as *Whole lotta succession gone*. It was changed after protests from Negroes from the Moral Majority, under the (mistaken) impression that succession referred to an indecent form of sexual congress.

AUTOCHTHON
(b) The original inhabitant; a poet and highland synonym for 'aboriginal', from the Greek for 'springing from the ground itself'. There is no such word as 'aborigine', but 'aborigines' is an acceptable plural for 'aboriginal'. "Do you have qualified not just for your 25-year decision, but for your 30-year silver-anniversary? Truly, Christopher, you are one of the firm's autochthons."

FACINOROUS
(c) Exceedingly wicked, from the Latin *facinus*, *facinorosus* an evil deed. "I propose to say to you about my opponent in this vital election, for I believe that politics ought to be about ideals and policies, not personalities. But I just want to say that all of us here recognise his truly facinorous nature."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Qx2 Kd2 2 Nd3 or f... Kd2 2 Qd1 are both checkmates.

CHANGE ON WEEK

	Bank Buy	Bank Sell
--	-------------	--------------

Australia \$	2.12	1.98
Austria Sch	16.88	15.43
Belgium Ft	49.56	45.28
Canada \$	2.215	2.093
Cyprus CypL	0.759	0.704
Denmark Kr	9.26	9.58
Finland Mk	2.65	2.09
France-Fr	6.20	7.55
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	394.00	369.00
Hong Kong \$	12.50	11.50
Iceland Ft	1.02	0.94
Italy Lit	5.1800	4.9200
Japan Yen	2916.00	2391.00
Malta	17.62	16.70
Netherlands Gld	0.594	0.589
New Zealand \$	2.683	2.458
Norway Kr	2.42	2.20
Norway Kr	10.47	9.87
Portugal Esc	245.60	224.00
S Africa Rd	1.94	1.84
Spain Ptas	168.00	165.00
Sweden Kr	10.54	10.04
Switzerland Fr.	11.54	7.80
Turkey Lira	refer	8940.00
USA \$	1.031	1.091

Bank for actual commercial bank money only as supplied by Bankers-Bank plc. Denmark, Italy, Cyprus, Greece, New Zealand, USA as at close of trading on

US dollar

1.5318 (+0.0126)

German mark

2.2632 (+0.0048)

Exchange index

84.1 (+0.4)

Bank of England official close (Apr)

FT 30 share

2727.7 (-57.1)

FT-SE 100

3718.3 (-65.0)

New York Dow Jones

5541.82 (+167.63)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

Store card credit at £600m for Christmas

British consumers used credit like never before in December's key Christmas shopping period, according to figures today from the Finance & Leasing Association (FLA).

The association said that credit on store cards hit a record monthly high of £598 million in December, a jump of 21 per cent compared with the previous year. In 1995 as a whole, consumers took out more than £20 billion of credit from FLA members, a rise of 16 per cent over 1994.

This is a much larger increase than the 7 per cent implied by the Bank of England's consumer credit figures, suggesting that the finance industry has sharply increased its market share.

Training lags

Britain's small firms admit they are not training their staff as much as they should due to lack of time and money, a survey published today claims. Ninety per cent of the 375 companies questioned by the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and Alex Lawrie, the business finance specialist, recognise that their employees' skills, particularly on computers, need improving. Most (65 per cent) said management staff needed to upgrade their supervisory skills. But firms are overwhelmingly against compulsory training — just 9 per cent would be in favour. Chris Greenall, BCC head of policy, said: "Training provision in small firms is clearly unsatisfactory."

Bulls fading

The latest Merrill Lynch-Gallup survey of British fund managers finds that they are becoming less optimistic about the near term and the one-year outlook for UK equities. On balance, the bulls lead the bears by 16 per cent on a three-month view, but this is down from 44 per cent in January.

Clothing boost

Keen pricing by clothing retailers has boosted consumer spending on clothing, which rose by 4.5 per cent last year despite the tough market conditions, reports Verdict, the retail specialist. Prospects for 1996 are better than at any time since the late 1980s.

Lloyd's plan

Lloyd's Names will today be given details of Lloyd's £2.8 billion reconstruction and renewal plan aimed at resolving the mass of legal actions and at providing them with an affordable exit from the insurance market. Names will not get final figures until March.

Bank prepares for single currency

By OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE Bank of England is pressing ahead with technical preparations for the introduction of European monetary union, with or without Britain's participation.

As well as working with the European Monetary Institute, the embryonic European Central Bank, and other national central banks on the transition to a single currency Europe, the Bank is also talking with the UK banking community and other economic sectors.

In its *Quarterly Bulletin*, due out on Wednesday, the Bank says it has held meetings with different interest groups, including building societies, the Confederation of British Industry, the British Retail

Consortium and a wide range of market associations. It had asked where it would be of help for the Bank to specify more precisely its own operations and to identify other areas where it might help to co-ordinate actions (including in the payments and settlements area and in markets).

The article, by John Townsend, a deputy director, adds: "The Bank has also stressed the importance of considering these questions both in the context of the United Kingdom as a participant in Stage 3 and in the context of Stage 3 beginning and the United Kingdom exercising its right not to opt in."

Times must have changed if Hanson can do no right



Lord Hanson built his £10 billion conglomerate on a single, coherent idea. Quoted companies exist solely to maximise returns to shareholders. That meant delivering more each year. Over the past 15 years, the rest of the Anglo-Saxon world has adopted this harsh but simple discipline. City fund managers now demand no less. They resolved a long-running dispute with big business over "short-termism" with a crushing victory over the managers, aided by the lessons of two recessions. But does it work? As Lord Hanson, now 74, comes up for retirement, the case is looking shaky.

In the Hanson canon, the annual shareholders' meeting gradually took on an important symbolic role. It was the occasion when the board's report to shareholders demonstrated that it had delivered, and shareholders (aside from the odd misfit or non-financial protestor) expressed their gratitude. So it was that, after a depressing six months on the stock market, Lord Hanson pulled off a splendid *coup de théâtre* at the group's agm, aimed to promise better things. Hanson would break itself into four chunks.

All present must have hoped that the share price would perk up in the fortnight before Hanson reported its first-quarter profits this week. It sagged by an alarming 16 per cent while the index surged by a fifth. The old takeover king certainly tried his best. His plan was typical of the fast-moving opportunism of the halcyon years. By financial engineering,

Hanson would do unto itself what it had done to so many others. Hanson shares, which had reversed a steep six-month slide in mid-December, immediately jumped. But it did not last. In the next nine trading days, they relapsed to their December low.

Lords Hanson and White could never have turned a £2 million company into a £12 billion conglomerate, at its peak, unless they had the momentum of City sentiment behind them. Now, that sentiment has turned implacably negative. First, former fans decided that the plan could not be well thought out. Hanson spent £25 billion buying Britain's Eastern electricity utility only five months ago as evidence of its new strategy. Now, Eastern was to be spun off, paired with Peabody, America's biggest coal miner. Then the new critics convinced themselves that the break-up would merely cut the huge dividends that had become the main lure of Hanson shares.

So far, however, few have suggested that Lord Hanson should abandon his Sansonian retirement plan. The conglomerate that still brings together plastics, urea, cigarettes and vitamin pills, has been written off. So too, have conglomerates in general. Tighter accounting standards make it much harder to hide the costs and enhance short-term benefits of takeovers. The spread of the Hanson philosophy and continuous cost-cutting in industry has left fewer big targets that can have cash returns quickly boosted to fund the next, bigger takeover.

Businesses united by a management system or by financial logic need not, however, be less successful than those linked by marketing, production process or product area. There might be equal sense in linking businesses with opposite cyclical risks, or yoking cash-generators with big investments elsewhere.

high rating on their own unless they are candidates to be taken over by others. Like Lorrho, Trafalgar House and perhaps next P&O, Hanson's life cycle coincided with the energies of its creators.

A more critical test will come at BTR, the widely scattered £12 billion group created via a management revolution by young Turks within a sagging rubber group. Its team approach is more systematic, based on management method and insisting on retirement at 60 to keep up the energy. But the new team from outside has yet to prove itself.

Is it politically symbolic that Forre and Hanson, two of the four top corporate contributors to the Conservative Party, are now in their twilight, and that a third, P&O, is coming under City pressure? Dominance by individuals probably provides a likelier link. There is, however, a wider message from Hanson's decline. It symbolised the era of industry's adjustment to tough markets, tougher competition and high interest rates. Groups such as Hanson did the economy a service by liberating fat, squeezing costs and rationing investment in mature businesses to cope.

Cost disciplines must remain but that adjustment phase is over. The new task is to invest, to grow and to keep ahead of competitors, to create products rather than financial vehicles. The Hanson era has left the wrong people in boardrooms, and the wrong mentality among City investors, to do it.

Bids threat to merger of MAI and United News

By ERIC REGULY

CITY investment firms are fuelling speculation that a bidding war will prevent MAI and United News & Media from completing their £3 billion merger.

Some of the firms have taken the view that the proposed merger, which would be done through a share swap that offers no premium, lacks industrial logic and was probably planned as a defensive move.

Both companies were widely viewed as takeover targets long before the merger plans were announced last Thursday. United was approached last year by a couple of groups that were interested in buying its ailing Express newspaper titles.

Neill Junor of NatWest Securities is one analyst who thinks that the MAI-United merger has, in effect, placed "for sale" signs on the companies. In a note published on Friday, he wrote: "We are not convinced this deal will go ahead. MAI is a critical franchise within the ITV network and we believe that Carlton will be prompted to make a counter-bid."

Michael Green, chief executive of Carlton Communications, the largest ITV company, cut short a Caribbean holiday when the MAI-United deal was announced and he is thought to have been approached by institutional investors about launching a counter-bid for MAI.

Mr Green, however, is known to be a conservative investor and has never become involved in a hostile takeover. But one media executive noted that unless Mr Green changes his investment stance, the consolidation of the TV industry in advance of the Broadcasting Bill could leave him out in the cold.

The Bill, now making its way through Parliament, allows any group to own as many ITV licences as it wants as long as it does not exceed 15 per cent of the viewing audience.

Carlton, with the London weekday and central England licences, has a 9.4 per cent share. MAI, with the Anglia and Meridian licences, has 5.4 per cent. Together, Carlton and MAI would just slip under the limit.

Although Carlton is the most obvious candidate for MAI, others exist. Analysts think the diverse holdings of both MAI and United makes them ideal break-up candidates.

MAI, for example, has a variety of money and securities broking companies that could be sold, while United has a large magazine publishing and exhibitions business. If the market were strong and the sales well timed, the purchaser might be able to sell off at a profit the parts he does not want.

Lord Stevens, chairman of United, last week said he did not fear a counter-bid for United. "If someone wants to bid for us, why haven't they done it yet?" he said.



Hilary Cropper, chief executive, wants to capitalise on growth opportunities in the software and computer services industry

FI Group plans £60m flotation

By MARTIN WALLER

THE £60 million debut of FI Group, a supplier of computer software services, is expected on the stock market this spring.

Hilary Cropper, chief executive, said flotation would help the company to capitalise on the expected growth opportunities in the software and computer services industry.

The company, the subject of a 1991 buyout by its workforce, concentrates on the finance, retail, leisure and service sectors. FI's customers are typically large organisations requiring large-scale, integrated information technology services.

The float will be by way of a placing, with UBS and Gravitte & Co appointed joint sponsors and UBS the company's broker. The business, which was founded in 1962, made pre-tax profits of £2.1 million on turnover of £37.4 million for the six months to October 31.

Revlon stake for sale in international offering

FROM RICHARD THOMPSON IN NEW YORK

RON PERELMAN, the US entrepreneur, is trying to sell about 15 per cent of Revlon for \$150 million, in an international share offering that values the company at only half the amount of earlier failed attempts.

The new offering, in which shares will be sold in London as well as the US and other financial centres, prices Revlon shares at about \$20 each and the whole company at \$1 billion. But it is a highly risky move that could backfire on Mr Perelman if it fails as the previous attempts have done.

The offering is partly designed to raise much-needed capital so that Mr Perelman can meet an obligation to pay \$1.1 billion to the company's bondholders in less than two years' time. If he misses the deadline, he will lose control of the company.

Revlon is unable to generate the cash required to meet the payment because of its mounting debt and persistent losses over the last few years which turned into a profit of only \$3.3 million in the last quarter of 1995 after savage price-cutting boosted sales.

In order to stimulate interest in the sale, Mr Perelman has substantially lowered his sights. Although the \$20 offer price is similar to that at which he tried to sell the shares on his first attempt in 1992, analysts said that the equivalent value after accounting for share splits and other financial engineering over the last few years, is closer to \$9.50, despite the overall rise in the stock market over the same period. Because of the lower value, there are 11 underwriters for the issue including many of Wall Street's biggest broking firms.

Mr Perelman, who bought

the company six years ago in a bitterly contested takeover battle, sounded out the stock market about a share issue last summer but was forced to abandon the idea after opposition from Wall Street.

He then had to watch in frustration as Estée Lauder, a leading rival in the cosmetics industry, pulled off a highly successful share offering several weeks ago. The falling value of Revlon's shares reflects the poor performance of the company, which has turned out to be one of Mr Perelman's worst investments. It has made a loss in every year since 1990.

In 1991, losses soared to nearly \$200 million, shrinking to about \$10 million last year. In the meantime, debt has risen and even attempts at financial engineering by entering into interest-rate swaps have lost the company money.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The patter of tiny Cedrics

THINGS are looking up for the Cedrics of this world. Not only is Cedric Brown soon to retire from British Gas on a handsome pension, but hopes are high on Mudchute City Farm, east London, that Cedric, the 20-stone porter that featured so prominently at British Gas's last annual meeting, is pregnant.

The farm hands are so excited and have put a circle around the month of May.

GMB, the union, which has promised to look after Cedric for the rest of her life, has already chosen a host of names. However, they do seem to have an uncanny resemblance to various executives in the utilities sector.

Blooming timely

HOW appropriate that results for the year ended December 31 for the Jersey-registered Flying Flowers group are due on Wednesday — St Valentine's Day. "We chose the day quite deliberately," managing director Tim Dunningham says.

An arty meal

ERNST & YOUNG, the accountants, are taking the sponsorship of the Tate's Cézanne exhibition seriously. They have already organised that their minibuses, which connect their various offices, should be painted in images of the artist's famous pictures. Even more enticing is the Cézanne week they have organised in their canteen. Nosh will be turned over to Provencal cuisine. "We'll have to survive on Salade Cézannoise and Bouillabaisse Cézannoise, though I'd prefer sausages and pommes frites," said an executive. Meanwhile, at Pret A Manger, they're serving a Cézannewich.

Graduating

CANTAB Pharmaceuticals, the immunology group of Cambridge — where else? — has appointed Sir John Collins as its new non-executive chairman and clearly does not hold his university days against him. Sir John is a former chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, is current chief executive of the Vestey group of companies, and is a non-executive director of NM Rothschild & Sons. And where did Sir John graduate with a BSc Agriculture? Reading University.

Tears in beers

BASS brewers are crying in their beer after the oldest Mulberry tree in Cardiff was blown over by high winds in the garden of one of their pubs. The 15ft tree, thought to be about 200 years old, had a preservation order on it, and now the owners of the Nine Giants pub in Llanishen are desperately looking for a new root.

Croc cocktail

REGULARS at the Ebury Wine Bar, in Ebury Street, have a treat in store this summer. Chef Josh Hampton, fresh from New Zealand, who has already introduced City diners to the delights of kangaroo, hopes to tickle taste buds with crocodile on a bed of lettuce.

COLIN CAMPBELL

Campaign spends £49m to lure UK visitors

Australian tourism boost

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S tourism industry is poised to launch its biggest ever marketing campaign next month in a bid to lure more British visitors.

Under the slogan "The sooner you go, the longer the memories" the A\$100 million (£49.5 million) three-year campaign hopes to persuade people to take their holiday of a lifetime now rather than leaving it until they are older.

Tourism is now Australia's biggest export industry, ahead of the country's traditional exports of coal, wool and gold, and last year generated export earnings of A\$12 billion, an increase of nearly 17 per cent on 1994. It accounts



Koala: Australia's old look

services division, said: "In the past two years we have found that while Australia is top of the list of places people would most like to visit, there is a big gap between that and the number of people who actually come here. What we need to do is to make Australia a more compelling destination, to make people say: 'I have to go now.'" He added: "The image of Australia in the UK has become bland because of the way it is portrayed in soap operas. We are trying to give Australia a more exotic flavour."

Last year more than 350,000 British people visited Australia, an increase of 6.5 per cent on 1994 and that figure is forecast to rise to nearly 500,000 by the year 2000.



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invest in Scotland's centre of excellence LOTHIAN

Welcome to fresh fields and pastors new

An important element in the genre of harmless Sunday night drama is the prevalence of the colour green. Think of *Trainer*, *The Ver*, *Lovely*, *Hamish Macbeth*, even *Pie in the Sky* — in every cinematic shot there's an emerald sward singing to our souls for Monday morning. Kieran Prendiville, creator of the new *Ballykissangel* (BBC1), has taken this principle to its logical conclusion. "This is where the 40 shades of green come from," said sceptical Assumpta, driving the new English priest towards the idyllic Irish village with the heavenly name. And *Forty Shades* would make a good title for the show, in a way, since the gradations of the provide key interest in the weeks ahead.

For Father Peter is green, all right. "That's beautiful," he breathes when he first sees his

church. "You were made for each other," quips Assumpta. In last night's episode, he arrived in mufi (with his brutally short hair, more like an off-duty squaddie than a cleric), moved into his surprisingly well-appointed house, and was immediately confronted with an unusual problem — a luxury parsonage, donated by a pushy parishioner, and modelled on a public lavatory. Now, the question was, would Good Young Priest make a stand against Wicked Bent Businessman? Well, let's just say that like all the best heroes, he may be wet behind the ears, but he still has something between them.

I liked *Ballykissangel*. Like Kieran Prendiville's other dramatic venture, *Roughnecks*, it is formulaic yet concentrates maximum attention on the individuals, creating good material for the actors — here beautifully cast, with Stephen Tompkinson as Peter, Dervla Kirwan as Assumpta, and Tony Doyle

as the lavatory importer. These three represent faith, doubt and sin. I suspect, so good luck to them as they thrash it out. *Ballykissangel* is the sort of place where young men still fret about mortal sin before having sex, yet by a stroke of good fortune religious fervour is not reflected in interior design — no tacky madonnas; no praying hands glowing in the dark. Father Peter's house is done out like a Cotswold cottage. Oh yes, a little piece of heaven fell from out the sky one day, but it wasn't in Ireland exactly.

Isn't it always the way — that you have your deepest and longest discussions in the wrong part of the house? Instead of sitting somewhere comfy with a nice drink, earnest thoughts overtake you while you stand on one leg at the bathroom door, or hunch in the car with shopping deflating round your legs. As Ruby Wax last

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

night showed her way through Roseanne Barr's luxury home, scattering insults ("Why do I get the idea this house was decorated an hour ago?", you might have assumed a heart-to-heart was out of the question. They visited the Doll Room ("Wow, are you nuts!") and dressed up in funny headgear from her fancy-dress cupboard.

But suddenly, standing in the dressing room — between unflat-

tering mirrors, the crew visible in multiple reflections — they discussed Roseanne's mistakes — her "dumb" marriage, her prostitution; her eating disorders. This was a hysterical analysis of the function of the male sex ("Yes they can have control, but only in two areas," said Roseanne, laughing). Starting barbecues is one; the other is walking around in packs and peeing on things. By now, she and Ruby were the biggest pals — Ruby's method of making friends, being that interesting throwback to subservient monkey behaviour rarely observed these days in celebrity interviews, ie, weakling the breasts of the bigger woman, and polishing her teeth with your finger.

Ruby Wax Meets... (BBC1) has become unmissable. What made last night's show especially endearing was that Roseanne Barr is nobody's patsy. Unlike Imelda Marcos or Pamela Anderson, she

has an intelligence unclouded by vanity. "I know your tricks," she warned Ruby, and she meant it. At the end, she announced to camera: "I went through the fire and emerged with only a tan." She was talking about her marriage to Tom Arnold, but it applied to Ruby, too.

Returning from holiday this weekend, I found Paul Merton on Friday night doing enough golf in it. Over on BBC1, Donna Franchis's superior drama *A Mug's Game* reached three-quarter mark with great events — a boating disaster; and Kathy's netter-do-well husband leaving home with the VCR. Crushing, Kathy (Michelle Fairley) told her besotted boss, Ken Stott, "You're very sweet," at which Stott's wonderful face sagged helplessly. When a woman says you are sweet, you know you've been kidding yourself.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (47102)
- 7.00am BBC Breakfast News (Ceelex) (85763)
- 9.00am Breakfast News Extra (Ceelex) (408259)
- 9.20am Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (3166034)
- 9.45am Kilroy, topical discussion (s) (2643378)
- 10.30 Good Morning (s) (35259)
- 12.00 News (Ceelex), and weather (853015)
- 12.05pm Turnabout (s) (3404183)
- 12.30 Going for a Song (s) (73831)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceelex), and weather (35522) 1.30 Regional News (Ceelex), and weather (7753780)
- 1.40 Neighbours (s) (3422367)
- 2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (900218)
- 2.40 Rich Man, Poor Man (473893)
- 3.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (s) (7809270) 3.55 Badger and Badger (s) (1334387) 4.10 Chimpunks Go to the Movies (s) (8190175) 4.35 The end of the world under the sea (Ceelex) (s) (3513152) 5.00 Newsnight (s) (8497855) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceelex) (s) (1621454)
- 5.35 Neighbours (s) (Ceelex) (s) (849788)
- 5.50 News (Ceelex), and weather (798)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazine (251)
- 7.00 Noel's Telly Years. The year in question is 1979. Showrunner Lucinda Green, Jon Penrose, Stephanie Dick, and Lennie Bennett, look back at 1979 (Ceelex) (s) (6611)
- 7.30 Watchdog, Consumer magazine (Ceelex) (783)
- 8.00 Eastenders. Steve is concerned for Lydia's safety and David and Carol wonder what Ricky is up to. (Ceelex) (s) (826)
- 8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart. Yvonne is pushing for Gary to get a proper job; while his life in wartime London seems under threat from a returning hero (Ceelex) (s) (5096)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceelex), regional news and weather (9034)
- 9.30 Panorama. Is the comprehensive system failing our children? David Dimbleby chairs a studio debate. (Ceelex) (330183)
- 10.10 FILM: Raising Cain (1992) starring John Lithgow and Lolita Davidovich. Complex well-acted thriller about an unloving child psychologist who kidnaps children for his experiments. Directed by Brian De Palma (Ceelex) (s) (7452541) 10.10 Cinema Times 10.40 FILM: Raising Cain 12.10am Film 96 12.40-1.10 FILM: You Talkin' to Me? 1.10-1.40 FILM: Tide-Run 1.40-2.45 FILM: Raising Cain 2.30am Film 96 1.00-2.45 FILM: Mixed Company
- 11.40 Film 96 with Barry Norman. Includes reviews of *Jurassic* with Robin Williams; and *Orlando* with Laurence Fishburne and Kenneth Branagh (15522)
- 12.10 FILM: Mixed Company (1974) starring Barbara Harris and Joseph Bologna. A bout of mumps makes a father-of-three alienate his family and adopt an African-American boy, then a Vietnamese girl and a Hopi Indian boy. Directed by Melville Shavelson (18771)
- 1.55am Weather (853708)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode
The numbers next to each video title are the Video PlusCode. To find out more about Video PlusCode, or to see a list of all the titles available, go to the Video PlusCode website at www.videoplus.co.uk. For more details on the programme you wish to see, go to the Video PlusCode website at www.videoplus.co.uk. For more details on the programme you wish to see, go to the Video PlusCode website at www.videoplus.co.uk.

BBC2

- 6.00am Open University: Reaching and Grasping (297857) 6.25 Global Media (1500763)
- 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceelex) and signing (s) (839788)
- 7.30 Stingray (s) (53283) 8.00 Blue Peter (s) (Ceelex) (s) (40015) 8.30 Songs of Praise (s) (Ceelex) (s) (170218)
- 9.05 Daytime on Two: Techno (4075812) 9.25 Christianity (1856367) 9.40 Playdays (5420164) 10.25 Hitch Hitch House (8470812) 10.45 Look and Read (7315183) 11.05 Zip Zag (3263251) 11.25 Technology Starters (705847) 11.40 The Ancient Mariner (767299) 12.00 The English Collection (43102) 12.30am Working Lunch (71475) 1.00 The Making of the United Kingdom (2207309) 1.20 Portrait of Europe (2206560) 1.40 Storytime (3432060)
- 2.00 Joshua Jones (3533006) 2.10 Holiday Outings (s) (1) (10004367)
- 2.15 FILM: Passport to Terror (1989) starring Les Remick. A fast-paced drama about a woman's dream cruise turning into a nightmare. Directed by Lou Antonio (824562) 3.55 News (Ceelex) (151229)
- 4.00 Today's Day (s) (164) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Go! (s) (676) 5.00 Esther (s) (8947)
- 5.30 World Siding Championships (928)
- 6.00 Space Precinct (Ceelex) (s) (496305)
- 6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (s) (501096)
- 7.30 Hidden Empire: Behind the Mask (Ceelex) (s) (305)
- 8.00 Horizon: Masters of the Ionosphere (Ceelex) (s) (362015)
- 8.50 Trade Secrets. Carpenters reveal the tricks of their trade. (Ceelex) (s) (493367)



Daniel Craig and Mark Strong (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Our Friends in the North. It is 1974 and Georgia (Daniel Craig) is in jail. Nicky is planning revolution from a sausage factory while Toaker's (Mark Strong) and Mary's marriage is an empty shell. Meanwhile, time has run out for Nicky's former mentor, Donnie, but not before he offers Nicky some valuable advice (Ceelex) (s) (2720909)
- 10.10 The Travel Show Essential Guides. Arthur Smith cycles away from the tourist haunts of Ibiza. Plus advice on renting an entire island (Ceelex) (s) (826883)
- 10.30 Newswatch (Ceelex) (102657)
- 11.15 The Brains Trust. Joining The Times's Mary Ann Sieghart this week are the scientist Lewis Wolpert, the philosopher Edward De Bono, the novelist A.S. Byatt, and the theatre director Jonathan Miller (s) (84778) 11.15 Wales 2008 — the Culture
- 11.55 Weather (119980)
- 12.00am Midnight Hour (s) (85590)
- 12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Hidden Empire: Behind the Mask (BBC2, 7.30pm)
The series which has offered a valuable corrective to Anglo-centric accounts of the British Empire concludes by reconstructing a discredited episode in the history of West Africa. For 1,000 years the Kingdom of Benin (now part of Nigeria) had proudly resisted foreign occupation. But in the 1890s Britain, determined to exploit the region's raw materials, sent a military expedition to depose the Benin king and take control. The invasion was resisted and its leader, James Phillips, was killed. The British press reported the treacherous massacre of a peaceful diplomatic mission and the British Government retaliated by burning Benin's main city and looting its treasures, including ancient bronze masks. Ben Okri, the Booker prize-winning novelist, says the theft destroyed the Benin people's spirit and cultural identity.

Horizon: Masters of the Ionosphere (BBC2, 8.00pm)
There is nothing new under the sun, even in the ionosphere which fills the gap between the Earth's atmosphere and outer space. Before the First World War Nikola Tesla, a Croatian-born physicist working in New York, suggested a defence system around the United States which would use the ionosphere. His plan was to use the ionosphere to receive and relay wireless signals. Marconi pipped him there. But Tesla still has an honoured place in Tim Haines's film about a century of attempts to master the ionosphere. Many have been made by the American military, and not without controversy. The latest is a machine in Alaska which beams electrical energy up into the ionosphere. Whether the ultimate purposes are benign or sinister is a matter of continuing concern.

Classic Ships: Lazy Days (Channel 4, 8.30pm)
Pleasure craft are the latest topic as this agreeable series launches another wallow in boating nostalgia. We begin in late Victorian times, when the boat to be seen in was the long and slender rowing skiff, with its gold paint and velvet cushions. But this was also the age of steam, as typified by the Alaska, launched in 1883 and still in use. A big, noisy passenger boat, she offered a five-day trip from Kingston upon Thames to Oxford and back and heaven help the smaller boats which got in her path. Lake Windermere provided a quieter and more gracious alternative to the Thames, though by the First World War all its boats had switched from steam to petrol. The film also recalls the pleasure boats' finest hour, when they helped to evacuate more than 30,000 British soldiers from Dunkirk.

Island of Dreams (Channel 4, 9.00pm)
We do not hear any but it is a fair guess that the Greek island of Zakynthos has more than its share of mother-in-law jokes. The island's mothers are fiercely protective of their sons and especially if the boys marry British women. Suzy, who had a promising career and a fiancé, came to Zakynthos on holiday in 1962 and never went back. She fell in love with Denis, a farmer's son, married him and had two children. But she found that mother-in-law ruled the family, with herself in third or fourth place after the dog. Dia is another British woman who fell for an islander and found herself having to contend with his formidable mother. Suzy and Dia are among four real-life Shirley Valentines featured in a watchable three-part series from the team which made *Comic of Dreams*, about ex-pats in southern Spain. Peter Waymark

HTV

- 6.00am GMTV (63338)
- 9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (3141725)
- 9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (5430541)
- 10.00 The Time... the Place (s) (1681580)
- 10.35 This Morning (15549367)
- 12.00pm Regional News (Teletext) (5559209)
- 12.30 News, weather (Teletext) (3293034)
- 12.55 Shortland Street (s) (3278725)
- 1.25 Coronation Street (s) (Teletext) (4299454)
- 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (57824454)
- 2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (5784358)
- 2.50 Simply Delicious with Family and Friends (3630812)
- 3.20 News headlines (Teletext) (2960831)
- 3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (2991102)
- 3.30 Rainbow Days (s) (1359676) 3.40 Total TV (s) (3367586) 3.50 Disney's Goofy (3352270) 4.00 Scooby Doo (5578270) 4.15 Harry's Mad (Teletext) (s) (52367)
- 4.45 Art Attack (Teletext) (s) (618544)
- 5.10 The List (3384270)
- 5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (547251)
- 6.00 Home and Away. A mysterious American girl arrives in town (s) (Teletext) (s) (163283)
- 6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (120034)
- 6.45 Sportsweek (Teletext) (810306)
- 7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers. Game show with the big money prize (s) (2509)
- 7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (831)
- 8.00 World in Action: Strange Customs. A look at how members of the public are helping Customs in its war against drugs. (Teletext) (s) (1657)
- 8.30 The Paranormal World of Paul McKenna. The world of cowboys and psychics (Teletext) (s) (1544)



Adam Levy and Sam Kline (8.00pm)

- 9.00 Cell Red. Kline is faced with a moral dilemma after witnessing the death of a drug dealer (Teletext) (s) (2473)
- 10.00 News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (46557)
- 10.30 Regional News (789589)
- 10.40 Band of Gold. In the last of the series about a group of women who have been working as prostitutes, Rose returns to Bradford with new skills for her new business venture, while Carol's husband proves to be justified (s) (Teletext) (s) (382570)
- 11.40 Tales from the Crypt (145522)
- 12.10 Bushell on the Box (s) (896936)
- 12.40 Football Extra (5737049)
- 1.25 Customs Classified (5204597)
- 2.10 Music Box Profile (7406226)
- 2.30 International Athletics (s) (267503)
- 4.20 The Time... the Place (s) (1504752)
- 5.00 An Invitation to Remember (s) (54400)
- 5.30 Morning News (26495)

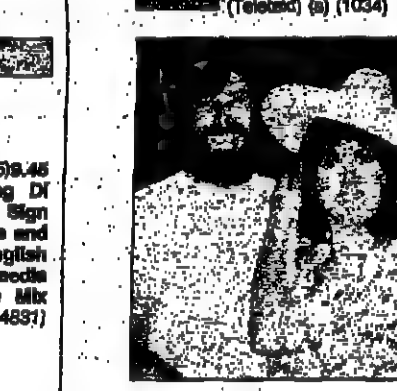
HTV WALES

- As HTV West except:
- 5.10pm-5.40 Ready Money (8384270)
- 6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (283389)
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55 Coronation Street (3278725)
- 1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (8467729)
- 1.55 Home and Away (7805450)
- 2.25 Gardeners' Diary (5784358)
- 2.50-3.20 High Road (3630812)
- 3.10-3.40 Home and Away (8384270)
- 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (83218)
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55 Home and Away (3278725)
- 1.25 Chain Letters (8467729)
- 1.55 A Country Practice (3429270)
- 2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (1169270)
- 3.10-3.40 Shortland Street (8384270)
- 6.25-7.00 Central News (283389)
- 11.40 World Championship Snook (145522)
- 1.25am Bushell on the Box (7362481)
- 2.40 Film: Emergency Call (488270)
- 4.10 Joffender (349884)
- As HTV West except:
- 12.55pm Chain Letters (3278725)
- 1.25 Home and Away (8467729)
- 1.55 A Country Practice (7805450)
- 2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (3126809)
- 3.10 Home and Away (8384270)
- 6.00 Meridian Tonight (367)
- 6.30-7.00 Country Ways (947)

- Starts: 6.30 Think Tank (5054983)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (58473)
- 9.00 Fifteen to One (58034)
- 9.30 Schools: Geography (6571675) 9.45 Planes (5026580) 10.00 Bang Di Fung (8462893) 10.15 Learn Sign Language (3651305) 10.20 Place and People (8473909) 10.40 English (9064339) 11.00 Encyclopedia Galactica (3547251) 11.15 The Mix (7047831) 11.30 Panorama (2874831) 11.40 Technology (2879386)
- 12.00 Right to Reply (38270)
- 12.30pm Cambercliff Green (85541)
- 1.00 St. Martin (4218568)
- 1.30 Film: This is My Father (3923367)
- 3.25 Terryloons (2867744)
- 3.30 Wired World (725)
- 4.00 Backstage (588)
- 4.30 Gardens Without Borders (744)
- 6.00-6.30 5 Pump: Round a Round (5344454) 6.15 Film (2447170) 6.25 Teletext (7816473)
- 6.30 Countdown (118)
- 6.00 Newyddion (483015)
- 6.15 News (994522)
- 7.00 Pabot Y Cwm (308183)
- 7.25 Byd Ar Bedder (353098)
- 8.00 Hefod Haf (9296)
- 8.30 Newyddion (1034)
- 8.00 Auf Wiedersehen Pat (8285)
- 10.00 Sgorio (2303019)
- 11.05 Roseanna (116473)
- 11.35 NYPD Blue (463388)
- 12.30am Meat List (73110)

CHANNEL 4

- 6.35am Think Tank with Mickey Hutton (s) (Teletext) (s) (5054983)
- 7.00 The Big Breakfast (58473)
- 9.00 Fifteen to One (s) (Teletext) (s) (58034)
- 9.30 Schools: Geography (6571675) 9.45 Book Box (5026580) 10.00 Stage Two Science (8462893) 10.15 Learn Sign Language (3651305) 10.20 Place and People (8473909) 10.40 English Programme (9064339) 11.00 Encyclopedia Galactica (3547251) 11.15 The Mix (7047831) 11.30 Real-e-Tat-Tat (2874831) 11.45 Living with Technology (2879386)
- 12.00 Right to Reply (s) (Teletext) (s) (38270)
- 12.30pm Sesame Street (s) (57096) 1.30 Womans (5141420) 1.55 The Man Who Stole Dreams (5023833)
- 2.05 FILM: Nobody Lives Forever (1946, b/w). Romantic thriller. John Garfield, a former GI and gambler, is persuaded to romance and rescue widow Geraldine Fitzgerald of her fortune. Directed by Jean Negulesco (Teletext) (257270)
- 4.00 Backstage. Quiz (Teletext) (s) (580)
- 4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (1744)
- 6.00 Love in the Afternoon. Romantic magazine with Antoine de Caunes (Teletext) (s) (2822)
- 6.30 The Cosby Show (s) (Teletext) (908)
- 6.30 Hollyoaks (Teletext) (s) (588)
- 7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (303541)
- 7.55 The Skot. Video snapshot (302184)
- 8.00 Screaming: Revele investigate the controversy surrounding the coronator, whose growing population is, according to anglers, depleting fish stocks. A fishy owner, a representative from the RSPB and a spokesman for the Salmon and Trout Authority join the debate (Teletext) (s) (5256)
- 8.30 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (s) (1034)



Suzy met Denis on Zakynthos (8.00pm)

- 9.00 Island of Dreams (Teletext) (s) (5295)
- 10.00 FILM: Days of Heaven (1978). Love triangle drama with Richard Gere, set in the American Midwest. Directed by Terrence Malick (Teletext) (s) (364295)
- 11.45 The Sexual Impediment: The Young Ones. Is becoming a responsible young adult down to instinct, or do we have to glean much from our parents' careful guidance (s) (Teletext) (s) (242218)
- 12.45am FILM: Moss Rose (1947, b/w). Murder mystery set in London at the turn of the century. Peggy Cummings is a chorus girl who sees her involvement with a wealthy admirer, Victor Mature, as a way to fulfil her dreams of escaping her lower-class roots. But soon she begins to suspect that the man is guilty of murder. Directed by Gregory LaCasse (522226)
- 2.18 The Other Americans: New World, New Order. Tonight's film focuses on Argentina (s) (s) (880777). Ends at 3.18

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday

SKY ONE

- 7.00am Bobbly Eggs and Soldiers (8369)
- 8.00am Press Your Luck (253336)
- 9.00am The Price Is Right (8369)
- 9.30am The Price Is Right (8369)
- 10.00am The Price Is Right (8369)
- 10.30am The Price Is Right (8369)
- 11.00am The Price Is Right (8369)
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- 12.30am The Price Is Right (8369)
- 1.00am The Price Is Right (8369)
- 1.30am The Price Is Right (8369)
- 1.55am The Price Is Right (8369)

SKY NEWS

- News at the hour
- 6.00am Sunrise (830135) 8.30 The World This Week (541180)
- 6.00am-10.10am CBS 24 Hour News (830135) 1.00pm CBS News This Morning (830135) 2.00pm CBS News This Morning (830135) 3.00pm CBS News This Morning (830135) 4.00pm CBS News This Morning (830135) 5.00pm CBS News This Morning (830135) 6.00pm CBS News This Morning (830135) 7.00pm CBS News This Morning (830135) 8.00pm CBS News This Morning (830135) 9.00pm CBS News This Morning (830135) 10.00pm CBS News This Morning (830135) 11.00pm CBS News This Morning (830135) 12.00am CBS News This Morning (830135)

SKY MOVIES

- 6.00am 1 Remember Mimi (1945) (253454) 6.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 6.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 6.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 7.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 7.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 7.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 7.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 8.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 8.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 8.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 8.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 9.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 9.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 9.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 9.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 10.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 10.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 10.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 10.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 11.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 11.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 11.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 11.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 12.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 12.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 12.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 12.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 1.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 1.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 1.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 1.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 2.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 2.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 2.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 2.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 3.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 3.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 3.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 3.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 4.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 4.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 4.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 4.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 5.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 5.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 5.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 5.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 6.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 6.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 6.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 6.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 7.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 7.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 7.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 7.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 8.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 8.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 8.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 8.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 9.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 9.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 9.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 9.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 10.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 10.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 10.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 10.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 11.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 11.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 11.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 11.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 12.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 12.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 12.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 12.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 1.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 1.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 1.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 1.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 2.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 2.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 2.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 2.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 3.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 3.15 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 3.30 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 3.45 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 4.00 The Day of Living (1938) (253454) 4.15 The Day of Living (1938

TIMES HAVE CHANGED
IF HANSON CAN
DO NO RIGHT

BUSINESS

MONDAY FEBRUARY 12 1996

THE WEEK AHEAD 40

OIL GIANTS TO
UNVEIL THEIR
FULL-YEAR FIGURES

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Britain claims European lead in job creation

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE Government will claim success today for Britain's economic and labour market performance when it unveils detailed figures showing the UK's strong pattern of unemployment reduction and job creation sharply outperforming its principal competitor countries.

The figures will be used to stiffen the Tories' resolve to oppose the more regulated work patterns common on the Continent and being threatened by Brussels through the social chapter. Ministers expect that new statistics on the number of people out of work and claiming benefit to be published this week will show

a further fall in unemployment, with City and Whitehall forecasts suggesting unemployment fell 10,000 in January to just over 2.2 million.

Before that, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, will today set out in detail Britain's recent jobs performance against that of other European countries and will claim that it demonstrates the value to the British economy of the Government's decision to promote a flexible labour market.

She is expected to publish new work carried out by the Department for Education and Employment looking at unemployment rates and

records of job growth in France, Germany, Spain and Britain. She will conclude that on both counts, Britain's flexible labour market is outperforming the more regulated job markets in such competitor countries.

The Institute of Directors calls today for a "radical rethink" of Europe's social policies and contrasts the job performance of Europe generally against the much higher levels of job creation in the heavily-deregulated labour market in America. The international comparisons, such as Mrs Shephard's employment indicators, are expected to be used by the Government in this year's competitiveness White Paper.

Ministers are also close to announcing detailed plans to give new opportunities for work experience to 14-16-year-old schoolchildren. They are determined to ride out what they see as wholly misplaced criticism of the original proposals, which appeared when they first emerged last year.

But the Government will run into difficulties on jobs this week when Dr Tim Holt, its chief statistician, is expected tomorrow to reveal details of a new internal Whitehall report on the Government's unemployment figures. The report, revealed by *The Times* last week, is expected to recommend adopting a new monthly measure of unemployment in addition to the normal claimant count.

Though Dr Holt, head of the Central Statistical Office, will be pressed by MPs when he appears tomorrow before the Commons' Employment Select Committee, full details are not planned to be published until Thursday—publication day of the Scott report into the arms-to-Iraq affair.

Meanwhile, the TUC says today that close to 200,000 people in Britain who receive redundancy payments when they become unemployed will be together £90 million worse off under the first year of JSA through loss of benefits. Unemployment will continue to fall for the next two years and be below two million by 1998, an economic report by the Chartered Institute of Marketing forecasts today. It says continuing economic growth means there is a good chance of much lower levels of recorded unemployment than at any time for 20 years.

Leading article, page

Farnell deal faces City opposition

By MARTIN WALLER

THE £1.8 billion megadeal in the US proposed by Farnell Electronics, the Yorkshire distribution group, faces a rocky passage at this Thursday's extraordinary meeting, with a significant block of City shareholders pledged to oppose it.

So far, institutions speaking for as much as 12 per cent of Farnell's share capital are expected to vote against the purchase of Premier Industrial Corporation. The Prudential, with almost 6 per cent, said it would decide today, but is thought to be in the opposition camp.

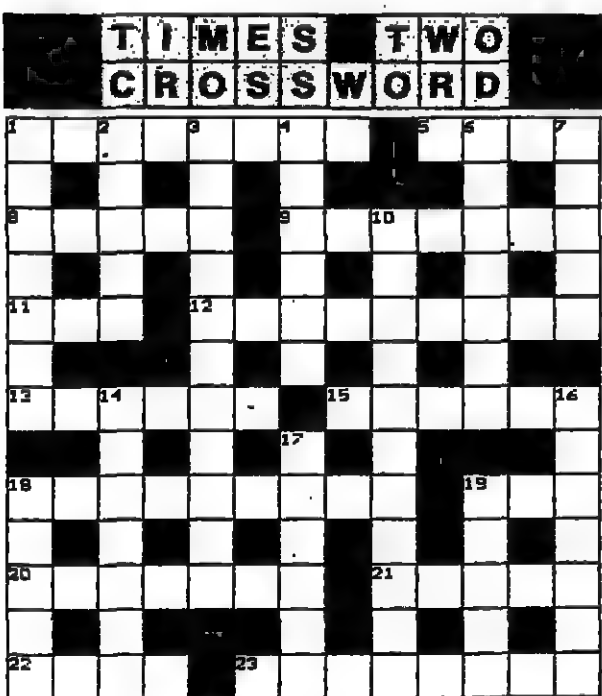
The deal needs a majority of 75 per cent of those voting. Farnell's last annual meeting saw a 55 per cent poll. A repetition of this would allow the deal to proceed as long as not too many other institutions side with the opposition.

Farnell has, however, writ-

ten to shareholders repeating the view that the acquisition of Premier and the accompanying rights issue are in their best interests. Three of the company's four largest shareholders, holding between them 24 per cent of the votes, are supportive, the company said. The fourth is the Prudential.

Leading the opposition to the Premier deal is Standard Life, the Scottish institution with 2 per cent of Farnell. Graham Wood, head of UK equities, said he had supported the rights issue despite existing doubts over the huge premium being paid and the dilution of earnings that the purchase of Premier entailed.

The institution had last month planned to sell some of its Farnell shares, but was unable to do so when informed of the US purchase.



No 702

ACROSS

- 1 A lute (8)
- 5 Read cursorily (4)
- 6 Simple dress; change (5)
- 9 (Water) tank (7)
- 11 Large vase (3)
- 12 Outcry in pursuit of villain (3,3)
- 13 A science; convict Bay (6)
- 15 Circus ring (3,3)
- 18 Support with money (9)
- 19 Professional charge (3)
- 20 Bent, criminally-inclined (7)
- 21 All play (mus.) (5)
- 22 Team; aspect; swagger (4)
- 23 Give-away (sign) (4-4)

DOWN

- 1 Interrupt, annoy (7)
- 2 Conjunction (5)
- 3 Gritty realistic (drama) (7,4)
- 4 To-and-fro chair; old Mod enemy (6)
- 6 Very short hairstyle (4-3)
- 7 Live-in child-minder (5)
- 10 Over-emotional, mawkish (11)
- 14 Small-size newspaper (7)
- 16 Take the chair (7)
- 17 Puzzle; fill with holes (6)
- 18 Clothes, pulled up by the reforming (5)
- 19 Authoritative (Islamic) ruling (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 701

- ACROSS: 1 Stalls 5 Memo 8 Drag 9 Ideal fine 10 Soft soap 11 Lump 12 Surf 14 Carole 16 Flip 18 Evaluate 20 Nutshell 21 Chair 22 Bard 23 Dredge
DOWN: 2 Turnout 3 Light 4 Slip of the pen 5 Muffler 6 Maxim 7 Bespectacled 13 Imposed 15 Fitting 17 Laura 19 Uncle

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Elizabeth Forsyth will stand trial on two counts of handling stolen goods

Forsyth trial presents SFO with new challenge

By JON ASHWORTH

THE Serious Fraud Office, still reeling from the unsuccessful prosecution of Kevin and Ian Maxwell last month, is facing a fresh challenge from another high-profile fraud case starting this week.

The jury in the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, former adviser to Asil Nadir, is due to be selected at the Old Bailey today. The trial is expected to start tomorrow and should last between four and six weeks.

Mrs Forsyth, 59, of Great Dunmow, Essex, was formerly chairman of South Audley Management, a management company

which looked after the Nadir family's tax and property affairs.

She returned voluntarily to the UK from northern Cyprus in September 1994 to face questioning by the Serious Fraud Office. She was sent for trial in February 1995.

Shares in Poly Peck, Mr Nadir's fruits to electronics empire, were suspended at 10p in September 1990, the day after a raid by the SFO on the offices of South Audley Management. Receivers were appointed the following month.

Mrs Forsyth denies two counts of handling stolen

goods under the Theft Act 1968. In court one, it is alleged that, on a day between October 16 and October 20, 1989, she dishonestly undertook or assisted in the retention, removal, disposal or realisation of certain stolen goods, namely a chose in action represented by a credit of £307,000 remaining after the payment by her of £310,000 in cash at Handelsfinanzbank, Geneva, by or for the benefit of another, or dishonestly arranged so to do, knowing or believing the same to be stolen goods.

The second count involves the same charge, but it relates to £88,050 in cash.

Mrs Forsyth denies two counts of handling stolen

Leeson fraud led to £80m in bonuses to Barings staff

By MARTIN WALLER

A TOTAL of £80 million was paid out in bonuses to staff at Barings Bank based entirely on the illusory profits that were claimed by Nick Leeson, the convicted fraudster, according to a new book on the collapse of the bank to be published next week.

In *The Collapse of Barings*, Stephen Fay, the financial writer, calculates for the first time the benefit to Barings executives of Leeson's fraud, in the form of staggering and controversial bonus payments.

Mr Fay says that ING, the Dutch bank that bought Barings a year ago, paid out between £90 and £95 million in bonuses for 1994, the year of the collapse, although Barings executives directly implicated in the Leeson affair received no bonus at all.

These payments were based on reported profits before tax of £205 million, including the phoney "profit" booked by Leeson in Singapore. When the Bank of England worked out the real figure, it was £19.8 million, less than a tenth of the total already announced.

This would have given rise, says Mr Fay, to a pool of cash for the payment of bonuses of just £9.9 million.

"The £80 million difference can be interpreted in two ways," the book concludes. "Either it was the bribe ING had to pay the people it wanted to keep at Barings, or it was the Nicholas Leeson Memorial Fund: an unearned, undeserved £80 million bonus acquired by one man's fraud, stupidity and deception."

"Had there been any real gentlemen left at Barings, they would have donated their bonus to the bondholders (the mainly private individuals who lost millions from the bank's collapse). But there weren't," Mr Fay concludes.

The book is the first published by an insider and the Barings disaster, and the subsequent sentencing of Nick Leeson to a half-life and a half-year jail term by a Singapore court, it considers the rise of a humble comprehensive school boy who became a household name worldwide for fraud.

Mr Fay also looks at the culture within the aristocratic bank that allowed such fraud

to be perpetrated and one employee to wreak such havoc. Excerpts from *The Collapse of Barings* appear exclusively in *The Times* today.

The picture of Nick Leeson in custody, with a rueful smile and wearing a baseball cap back to front, will become one of the enduring images of the 1990s," Mr Fay concludes.

The Collapse of Barings - and the aftermath. Page 42

Gas split will hit taxman

By CARL MORRISON

FUTURE British government stand to lose huge potential tax revenues from the spin-off of the British Gas (BG) trading arm into a separate quoted company.

The transfer of Morecambe Bay, BG's largest gasfield, into British Gas Energy (BGE) should lead to a sharp fall in the price of the take-or-pay contract on South Morecambe and a reduction of up to £1 billion in petroleum revenue tax and royalties.

Gas from South Morecambe is currently sold to BG's trading business under a take-or-pay contract with BG's exploration unit at a price believed to be 26-27p per therm, well above the market rate of about 15p per therm for long-term gas supplies.

BGE is expected to lower the price of Morecambe gas in a bid to persuade other gas suppliers to renegotiate similarly high-priced take-or-pay contracts which could threaten the new company's survival.

"If we are negotiating with other producers, I am sure the discussions will include the price of the take-or-pay contract on Morecambe," said a British Gas spokesman.

Warren prepares to slug it out with DTI

By JON ASHWORTH

FRANK WARREN, the boxing promoter, is due at the High Court today to fight attempts by the Department of Trade and Industry to have him banned from serving as a company director.

Mr Warren, 43, will strongly contest proceedings brought against him under the Company Directors Disqualification Act. The hearing is expected to last three weeks.

The proceedings are linked to the collapse of the London Arena, the Docklands sports and entertainment complex that failed in 1991 with debts of more than £20 million. It

reopened under new ownership in 1994. Mr Warren personally lost more than £3 million in the collapse. He had guaranteed various debts but saw off the threat of personal bankruptcy.

The action by the DTI came to light last month. Mr Warren's solicitor, Park Nelson Thompson Quarrell, issued a statement saying that the proceedings related to the affairs of various companies before 1991. Mr Warren's current business interests are not affected. The statement said: "Mr Warren has defended the proceedings vigor-

ously and filed lengthy affidavits explaining his efforts to protect the interest of all creditors, employees and shareholders."

"This is not the case of an irresponsible director jeopardising the funds of creditors and not suffering a loss himself, but of a director with a very substantial personal financial commitment who worked extremely hard to protect the interests of all creditors and that investment."

The case against Mr Warren moved to the courts in November 1995, but proceedings were adjourned after previously undiscovered documents came to light. Mr Warren, who says he is being taken to court on a "technicality", faces a maximum ban of 15 years if the proceedings prove successful. Only 24 people have received 15-year bans since the Directors Disqualification Act came into effect in 1986.

The London Arena hosted big names from Pavarotti to Duran Duran, but eventually collapsed under the weight of its debts. Creditors included Landhurst Leasing, the controversial loan company that used the names of Damon Hill and other sporting celebrities to secure millions of pounds in loans. Landhurst collapsed in 1992 with debts of £121 million.



Frank Warren could face a maximum 15-year ban

Shares in bid survivors lag market

Companies that survive hostile takeover bids have tended to underperform the stock market by a hefty margin, suggests a report from Scottish Amicable Investment Managers, *The Ones that Got Away*.

On average they underperformed the market by 12 per cent over one year, 21 per cent over two years and 25 per cent over the three years after the takeover bid failed.

National Power, the electricity generator, has talked down suggestions that the sale of 4,000MW of generating plant, as ordered by the industry regulator, could be delayed by a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry.

The MMC is looking at National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern Electric, a regional power distributor. A report is due in March, when the generator expects the forced sale to be concluded.

Inco's move

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Conflict leaves Karadzic in fantasy land

Radovan Karadzic is a man with delusions. Sitting at a modern riverfront hotel in Zvornik, he speaks about his plans to rebuild the economy of the Serb Republic. He envisages a first-rate university and medical centre in the new modern city for the Bosnian Serbs.

Dr Karadzic, who has been indicted by the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, described his vision for an ethnically pure fantasy land and denied that any Muslims were massacred when Bosnian Serb forces overran the Srebrenica enclave in July.

"There was no order to kill them. Nobody under my command would dare kill those who were arrested or captured as prisoners of war," Dr Karadzic said in an interview with *The Times*.

An international warrant has been issued for Dr Karadzic's arrest and his Serb Republic is occupied by several thousand Nato soldiers who are empowered by the Dayton peace agreement to detain him and hand him over to the tribunal for trial. But Dr Karadzic, accompanied by several armed bodyguards, still roams Serb-held Bosnia and visits Serbia itself.



Stacy Sullivan meets the Bosnian Serb leader in Zvornik, where he has delusions about creating a brave new world

Last week he drove in a two-car entourage through the burnt-out houses of Zvornik to a hotel where he met a delegation of other Bosnian Serb leaders before driving to Belgrade. To reach there, he passed through the town of Vlasenica, where US troops have set up a base. Nato patrols were present all along the road. Dr Karadzic and his entourage were not stopped.

It is no secret that the Nato troops from the Implementation Force are trying to avoid a confrontation with the alleged war criminals. When asked what a Nato official would do if he happened on either Dr Karadzic or General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military leader, a Nato officer said: "I think he might do nothing. I'd be astonished if Nato soldiers actually detained any war criminals."

Dr Karadzic insisted that he is still in charge of the Serb Republic. "I am absolutely fully involved. Everything concerning the Serb Republic

is in my hands," he said. He claimed the low-profile he has taken since the signing of the Dayton agreement has nothing to do with the international arrest warrant. "I am extremely busy at the moment. We have to build a new economy. We have to set up a banking system and build universities and clinical facilities, as well as housing for 130,000 Serbs," he said.

"I want a free society and market economy. We didn't have a single political trial or political prisoner during 3½ years of war. Our state is a democracy and we did not commit a single crime."

The Serb Republic had been unfairly vilified, Dr Karadzic said. "We were ethnically cleansed, if you want to know the truth. There are more Serb refugees than Muslims and Croats together, but that was more by events than policy."

Asked why there were still about 30,000 Serbs living in Sarajevo and virtually no

Muslims left in the Serb Republic, Dr Karadzic had a ready answer. "Because we did not keep them by force. The Muslims are keeping the Serbs by force. They are ethnic hostages."

Dr Karadzic denied that his army set up detention camps across Bosnia in which tens of thousands of Muslims were imprisoned, tortured and killed. "This is terrible propaganda. The Muslims have killed so many Serb civilians."

Although Dr Karadzic is convinced of his innocence, he has refused to go to The Hague to answer the allegations against him. "If The Hague was a real juridical body I would be ready to go there to testify or do so on television, but it is a political body that has been created to blame the Serbs," he said.

Dr Karadzic said he welcomed the new peace in Bosnia but said the international community had made a mistake in Sarajevo.

"If they had split Sarajevo into two, one half for us and the other for Muslims, Sarajevo would not become a Tehran. If we leave Sarajevo, there will be 1½ million Muslims and so European Muslim culture, and we will be subjected to fundamentalism."



Dr Karadzic, indicted by the UN War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, denies Muslims were massacred when Bosnian Serb forces overran Srebrenica

Holbrooke attempts to heal rift with Serbs

By Stacy Sullivan

RICHARD HOLBROOKE, the architect of the Dayton peace agreement, visited Sarajevo yesterday to try to patch up a row with the Bosnian Serbs that threatens to undermine the peace process.

Calling the crisis "the first serious challenge" to the peace deal, Mr Holbrooke told the former warring parties that they had no choice but to abide by the accord they agreed in December. "We are here to insist on full compliance with Dayton, no exceptions, no changes," he said.

The dispute arose after General Ratko Mladic ordered Bosnian Serb troops to sever ties with the Nato peacekeeping force in retaliation for the detention by the Bosnian Government of two Serb officers and eight other soldiers on suspicion of war crimes.

Four of the soldiers were released on Saturday, prompting the Serbs to re-establish ties with the Nato force, but not with Sarajevo.

Mr Holbrooke is also to visit Belgrade, where he is expected to meet President Milosevic.

Keating slips into campaign lead with TV 'wigggle'

From Roger Maynard in Sydney

PAUL KEATING, the Australian Prime Minister, emerged marginally ahead of the Opposition leader, John Howard, in a nationally televised debate last night.

Two weeks into a campaign which has hardly set the nation alight, Australian television's answer to the clapperboard — a wiggly line on the screen reflecting audience responses to the leaders' answers — was brought out to add a little pizzazz to the lacklustre proceedings.

And the "worm", as it is known, gave Mr Keating a 2 per cent lead over Mr Howard, when the audience was

asked whom it would be supporting. Previous opinion polls had put the Opposition as much as 14 per cent ahead of the Government.

The worm showed that Mr Keating scored well during the hour-long face-to-face when he attacked Mr Howard for not spelling out his policies, while the Liberal leader won the audience's support when he spoke about the need to address unemployment. Australia has 770,000 jobless, and while the national unemployment rate is 8.6 per cent the number of young people out of work is almost 30 per cent, a figure which represents one of the greatest hurdles facing the Labor Party, if it is to stay in power.

What is clear from the debate is that, with just under three weeks to go before Australians go to the polls, the result itself remains wide open. Certainly Mr Howard has never suggested a Liberal victory will be easy, but after 13 years of Labor rule even diehard socialists agreed the odds must be in the Opposition's favour.

The two leaders did agree last night to return for another national debate in a few weeks' time. Unlikely, as it is, that it will set the world on fire, it will be worth watching, if only to monitor the worm.



Keating popular when he was on the attack

Australia overjoyed by bumper wine crop

By Roger Maynard

UNDER the harsh glare of the noon sun, Australian winemakers have been celebrating what they expect to be a record grape crop.

After four years of drought, early estimates suggest this year's harvest will produce 25 per cent more fruit than last year, as much as 830,000 tonnes of grapes — much of it for Britain. In the New South Wales Hunter Valley, vineyard owners could hardly contain themselves as they surveyed their thick bunches of succulent grapes in the final stages of ripening.

"We are very excited by what we've got here," said Phillip Ryan, of McWilliam's. "The grapes are very clean and they are certainly a good size." Just down the road Brian McGuigan, who exports nearly a third of his wine, has already started harvesting some of his grapes for sparkling wine. "We're delighted with the way the vineyard looks, especially after last year's dismal vintage," he said. This year the rain and the sun have arrived on cue, achieving both a bumper crop and quality fruit.



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ARTS
THE WEEK
AHEAD

LONDON

PIANISTS' WORK. Londoners are treated to some of the finest living pianists at the keyboard this week, starting with András Schiff's Haydn and Bartók series tonight. Jack Gibbons then gives only the second performance in history of Alkan's stupendously difficult 12 Etudes. Op 39 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Friday. (Mon-Sat, 7.30pm.)

EAST LYNN. Opening night for Mrs Henry Wood's famous tale of the downfall of Lady Lyndal Vane, played by Rachel Power (Mary Gurn) in Middlesbrough. Philip Frenson directs new adaptation by Lisa Evans, who made a fine version of *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* last year.

GREENWICH. Crocus HR, SE10 (0181-658 7755). Tonight, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Sat, 2.30pm. Until Mar 18.

ROBINSON. Jonathan Miller directs a semi-staged performance of Handel's *History of Lancelotti*, with Sophie Daneman as the heroine "widow" replacing the advances of the tyrant she believed disappeared her husband. Nicholas Kuperavich conducts. If you can't attend tonight, a recording will be available later in the year and the whole production can be seen again at the Birmingham Opera Festival this summer.

1983. Emma Fiddling, Jason Isaacs and Adam Kotz play the lead roles in Craig Rance's version of Rance's *Andromeda* updated to an imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son. Patrick Markey (author of *Deaf's Choice*) directs. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Now previewing, 8pm; opens Wed, 7pm.

THE CHANGING ROOMS. David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game. James Macdonald directs the play in the season of Royal Court Classics.

DELTA OF VENEZIA. St. Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-435 6122). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat, Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

CHAPTER TWO. Tom Currey and Sharon Glass play two unstarred New Yorkers whirling towards each other. New Nat Simon directs. Old Vic, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-435 5452). Mon-Sat, 8pm; opens Fri, 7pm.

LIE EXPLANATIONS. Philip Frenson directs a semi-staged performance of Rance's *Andromeda* updated to an imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son. Patrick Markey (author of *Deaf's Choice*) directs. Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Now previewing, 8pm; opens Wed, 7pm.

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THEATRE

Elizabeth McGovern makes her British stage debut in *The Misanthrope* at the Young Vic
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

Blackburne Concert Hall, 29 Lime Road, SE1 (0171-463 0103). 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE
BIRMINGHAM: Mark Wilson leaves the infamous *Match* after being going for mainstream jazz respectively with the assistance of such luminaries as saxophonist Chris Freeman. Her current band includes trumpeter Duncan Mackay and Simon Hale at the keyboard.

CHAMBERLAIN. The National Theatre's touring production of *The Frog* arrives here for two performances. Atkinson's *Match* is down to the underworld to find a moral leader who can lead a disorganized *Match*.

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RECIAT

Amanda Roocroft takes a night off from opera to sing at the Wigmore Hall
CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday

WIGMORE HALL. Michael Fryer's *New Year* concert makes a pre-Lenten treat, with Adam Faith leading the cast as head of an organization dedicated to unearthing political secrets. First seen at Wigmore Hall, the new cast includes Patricia Brame, James Olney, Anoushka Marlowe, Michael Balestracci and Thomas Rothery (0171-463 0202). Tonight-Sat, 8pm; mat, Thurs, 2.30pm and Sat, 4.30pm.

LONDON GALLERIES
Barclay's: Douglas, Conner of the Bakers (0171-438 4141). British Museum: *Match* (0171-438 4141). National Gallery: *Match* (0171-438 4141). National Gallery: *Match* (0171-438 4141).

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Dirty job, dirty minds

In David Hare's excellent *Sightings*, soon to move to the West End, a leading character launches into an impassioned defence of stunt teachers, social workers, probation officers and others who, while mocked by the public at large, "do what nobody else is willing to do, try to clear out society's drains". Nowhere in her list of unloved professions are child psychiatrists.

On the evidence of Stephen Poliakoff's fascinating new play, they certainly should be. For Clare, the shrink played by Harriet Walter, there are days when it feels as if people are not just waiting for her to clean the sewers but hurling the contents in her face.

Take the day that she enjoys in the play's second half. Her most imaginative client does as a runner. A young man she sees as her greatest success assaults her. Her noncommittal lover rages at her for not attending his lecture on London buses. Her usually withdrawn secretary suddenly attacks her for insensitivity to the wishes of parents. And a barmy, vindictive mother lures her into the car park beneath Marble Arch and... but you will not wish me to give away the fun in store in those concrete catacombs.

It is a rich, finely written play that gets a bit confusing and implausible towards the end but always grips. As



POP

Mike Flowers, the undisputed king of the cheesy sound, plays the Forum, Kentish Town. GIG: Friday. REVIEW: Monday.



BOOKS

An entertaining novel of lurvies in lust comes from the pen of Nicol Williamson. IN THE SHOPS: Now. REVIEW: Saturday.



OPERA

Stravinsky the Welsh way: The Rake's Progress is staged at the New Theatre, Cardiff. OPENS: Saturday. REVIEW: Monday.



BLUES

Here he comes again: Eric Clapton pitches his tent in the Albert Hall for his annual season. GIGS: From Sunday. REVIEW: Next week.

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

Thrilling celebration of love



Elizabeth Connell, "steady as a rock" and radiant as Isolde, with George Gray as a heroic Tristan, in David Alden's superb new ENO staging of Wagner's epic love story

There is only one thing more tedious than reading a rave notice, and that is writing one. So I must find something to niggle at in the new ENO *Tristan*. Well, the Shepherd wears a blind man's dark glasses, something of a cliché now. But given his function as lookout in the doom-laden Act III, it is pretty apt use of cliché.

There is one contentious piece of casting, but that is mostly Wagner's fault. Brangäne calls for a mezzo with a dramatic soprano top. The young mezzo Susu Parry cannot be faulted for spirit or commitment, but this is perhaps a role best given to singers of mature years with nothing to lose. And to say that every word of Andrew Porter's wise and faithful translation is audible would be untruthful (do you ever hear every word in German?). But more than enough came across to justify the principle of opera in the vernacular.

Rodney Milnes applauds English National Opera's superlative new production of Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* at the Coliseum

Otherwise, Mark Elder's freshly conceived musical interpretation, David Alden's equally original production — by far the most concentrated and disciplined he has yet given us — and a series of pole-axing individual performances combine to make this as thrilling an evening as the ENO has given us for many a year. Elder pays little heed to the *Tristan* of tradition, that 12-log duvet of heavy-breathing and ultimately tedious eroticism. He draws his favoured lean, muscular string sound, light on vibrato, from the attentive orchestra, and uses this basis for an ideally clear realisation of the score. You can hear the complex musical thought throughout.

At first the playing and brisk

speeds sounded too bracing, even for a first act set on board ship. There was little of the hesitant, breath-catching soupiness often favoured in the love duet; rather, a sweet, smooth-flowing lyricism. But the pain of Act III was high, unbearable, and Elder's overall grasp of the work's structure became ever clearer: his interpretation was planned, and convincingly executed from first bar to last.

The *Liebestod*, conceived in partnership with Elizabeth Connell's magnificent Isolde, crowned it. Fast, impulsive, brightly sung, this was not portentous "Love-Death" but joyous "Love-Life", a hymn of triumph. Together, Elder and Connell found Jenack's secret of using music to transform disaster into a celebra-

tion of the human spirit. It may not be what Wagner had in mind, but what the hell? It set you home on an enormous high, and there are worse things to do to an audience.

It is as though Connell's whole career had been building towards Saturday's first night. Her singing was steady as a rock, tirelessly radiant, phrased with the pliancy and tenderness born of years of singing Verdi. George Gray, her Tristan, sturdy and a touch phlegmatic early on, gave us beautiful singing in the love duet and rose heroically to the delirium of Act III. Gwyneth Howell's King Mark surpassed even his previous performances of the role, with every word telling across seamless musical lines.

Jonathan Summers's tousel, kilted Kurwenal was unsparingly intense, and the casting of first-rate singers in small roles paid off. John Hudson's crystal-clear Sailor got the opera off to a fine start, Christopher Booth-Jones made Melot a major role, and Alasdair Elliot sang the blind Shepherd most beautifully.

The success of Alden's production is based on his actual direction of the singers, always his strongest suit and here highlighted by the absence of design clutter: Ian MacNeil's decor, a slightly forced brick wall — is simplicity itself. In the last act the stage is bare save for one chair, leaving the field free for the singers. Wolfgang Cobbel's gorgeous lighting and a series of stage pictures of breathtaking beauty.

This is a *Tristan* for today, with decades of varnish stripped away, compelling audiences to think about it afresh. For what more can one ask?

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

VERDI'S DON CARLOS

reviewed by Michael Oliver

Verdi wrote *Don Carlos* for the Paris Opera, which insisted on five acts of scenic magnificence, with a compulsory ballet in the third. He outdid himself, but also miscalculated: the opera was vastly too long and had to be savagely cut. Five versions exist. The longer ones are too long for most theatres, but the shorter ones drop vital stitches from the plot.

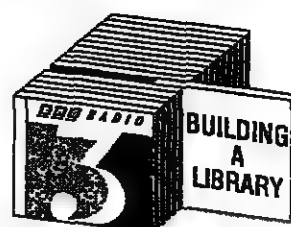
It is essentially a faded triangle: Elisabeth de Valois and Don Carlos of Spain are in love, but for political reasons she must marry his elderly, widowed father, the tyrannical Philip II. But its other themes — the loneliness of kingship, religious intolerance and the power of the Inquisition, heroic friendship — were not essentials to Verdi, and a recording can more easily do justice to them than any but the most lavish (and hugely long) stage production.

Of the nine recordings currently available, four use Verdi's final, five-act revision. Two others prefer a version, also sanctioned by him, that entirely removes the beautiful Act I. The three oldest recordings, although all of them feature fine singers, are so heavily cut that they seriously damage the musical drama.

Claudio Abbado's five-act version (DG 415 316-2, £44.95) has a supplement, which stretches the set to 4 CDs. It contains the ballet music that Verdi wrote for the original Paris premiere — no other recording includes this — and five of the other scenes that he cut and never replaced.

The best of the conventional five-act recordings are both starrily cast and strongly conducted. Sir Georg Solti's version, with Renata Tebaldi, Carlo Bergonzi, Grace Bumbry, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Nicolai Ghiaurov (Decca 421 114-2) is powerful, full-voiced, spectacularly recorded and rather hard-driven.

Carlo Maria Giulini (EMI CDS 7 47701-8) is no less epic, but finds room for grace as well. His cast is no less splendid — Montserrat Caballé, Plácido Domingo, Shirley Verrett, Sherrill Milnes and Ruggero Raimondi — and if you want the



standard five-act score without ballet, his version is richly satisfying. A more recent recording, by James Levine, is on the whole rather under-characterised and over-emphatically conducted. Of the four-act recordings, the most recent is again unsatisfactory (Riccardo Muti, wildly hyperactive; even Luciano Pavarotti sounds rushed at times), Herbert von Karajan's second attempt (his first was severely cut) is so well sung, by the likes of Mirella Freni, José Carreras and Agnes Baltsa, that the listener misses the



Claudio Abbado: reveals the magnificent music that the composer cut out

absent Act I all the more poignantly (EMI CMS 7 69304-2 — mid-price).

Abbado's "more-than-complete" version, although expensive because of its four discs, competes with most others in terms of sheer singing (Karin Rindell, Domingo, Raimondi), equals them in flair and passion, and exceeds them in the revelation of what magnificent music Verdi was prepared to jettison in order to reduce his opera to a length the public would stomach.

Recommended recordings can be ordered from the Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barby Road, London W10 0BL (telephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk) Next Saturday on Radio 3 (pm): Ravel's *La Valse*

DRUMMER and band leader Clark Tracey could be forgiven for wishing that the critic Whitney Balliett's description of jazz as "the sound of surprise" could be restricted exclusively to matters musical.

However, like the true professional he is, he reacted to the sudden unavailability of his quartet's young trumpeter, Gerard Presencer, by arranging for one of the UK's strongest soloists, saxophonist Alan Skidmore, to take his place at five hours' notice.

Not only that, but Tracey turned the whole situation to his advantage by playing to his unexpected guest's strengths and having him

Going like a Trane

from the quartet in two sets dedicated to the music of John Coltrane.

Tracey, both because of his various "outfit" predilection for rousing hard bop, and for his unerring ability to spot and bring on fresh young talent, has frequently been described as Britain's Art

Blakey. But on this occasion he assumed the mantle of Elvin Jones, the classic Coltrane quartet's drummer, with relish and aplomb. The quartet was completed by Steve Hamilton on piano and bassist Arnie Somogyi.

As is often the way in jazz, the sheer unexpectedness of the situation caused the musicians' improvisational adrenalin to flow; they launched themselves into their opener, *Some Other Blues*, like sprinters leaving starting blocks, and never looked back.

Skidmore — in particular, scoring the warm-up chorus necessary to rouse mortals, imbued his initial solo with the sort of sinewy, tumultuous vitality more frequently heard in "set-closers", and Tracey immediately responded, bringing the rhythm section swiftly to the boil where, give or take a couple of Coltrane's

Clark Tracey Quartet

Pizza Express, W1

yearning ballads, they remained all evening.

For vibrancy and vigour shot through with a highly affecting spiritual questing, Coltrane's music is unmatched, and Skidmore is arguably his most skilful British disciple. So two sets composed of classic Trane material were simply meat and drink both to him and the band as a whole.

Impressions featured breathtaking interplay between drummer and saxophonist. Responding to the definitive jazz prayer, drew a solo of rapt, concentrated energy from Skidmore. Mr PC, the perfect fast blues jamming vehicle, elicited a solo of matching, seething power from Hamilton.

Sensibly leavened with the odd earnest, heart-on-sleeve ballad such as Mal Waldron's *Soul Eyes* and Coltrane's own *Lonesome Lament*, this gig may not have been as advertised, but it certainly delivered the goods.

CHRIS PARKER

Richard Cork continues his guide to the major Cézanne retrospective at the Tate Gallery



Mont Sainte-Victoire seen from Bibemus c.1897. The Baltimore Museum of Art

Nothing held Cézanne's lifelong loyalty with more magnetic force than Mont Sainte-Victoire. Surging up from the Provençal countryside near his home in Aix, this battered pyramid of rock was a subject he returned to with obsessive ardour.

The young Cézanne would have clambered across it during long, coated walks through the landscape with his boyhood friend, Emile Zola. And the adult Cézanne found himself returning to the same motif, setting up his easel to study the mountain from different angles and at varying times of day.

According to local legend, the mountain's name commemorates the victory of Marius over the barbarians in the 1st century AD. When Cézanne painted it in the 1880s, he saw the scene through Poussin's Roman eyes as a harmonious, classi-

cal idyll. But by 1897, when he placed his easel in the quarries of Bibemus, the mountain took on a far tougher identity.

It is closer than before, and fills a far greater amount of the picture surface. The quarry face beneath burns in the brazen summer sun, radiating a sense of near-unbearable heat. Compared with the placid green fields that Cézanne had painted in the foreground of his earlier views, these orange cliffs show Provence at its most menacing and primordial.

To judge by the three pines ranged across the foreground, the artist positioned himself far above the quarry floor. So a feeling of vertiginous risk is added to the

scene, where a chasm opens up between Cézanne and the mountain beyond. While stressing the weight of these boulder-like cliffs, Cézanne also sees them as a living force. Towards the centre of the painting, they appear to be crushing the slender pine growing between them.

The quarry seems animated by pent-up, seismic forces, and the mountain rears above them like a mighty eruption. Wherever you look, Cézanne's brushmarks are quickened by an awareness of the dynamism pulsing through the earth's crust. Mont Sainte-Victoire has become a Titan on the move.

Cézanne is at the Tate Gallery until April 28, sponsored by Ernst & Young. For advance booking, which is advised, telephone 0171-420 0000.

Tomorrow: Richard Cork concludes his series with a discussion of *The Large Bath*, 1906.

Royal National Theatre

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Day One of our two-part series: how scientific breakthroughs are helping parents

The race to a genetic timebomb

FROM YOU TO YOUR BABY

TODAY

● A lifetime's health forecast from the womb; a new chance for childless couples

TOMORROW

● Does the unborn child feel pain? ... can you ever be too old to have a baby?

PREDICTING A HEALTHY FUTURE

The race is on to find a "safe" genetic test which would predict whether an unborn baby is likely to develop a disease later in life. At the moment the only tests available can endanger both the mother and her foetus. Doctors believe a new non-invasive technique, based on blood sampling, might be as close as five years away — but there are concerns that there are implications for society if it were to be widely used.

The fear is that parents will be tempted to uncover the genetic fate of their child when it is unlikely ever to develop a serious disease. It might become acceptable, for example, to reveal a foetus's susceptibility to diabetes, heart disease, rheumatoid arthritis and cancers, even though it may, in fact, never develop any of them.

foetal cell that leaks out, there are a million maternal cells," he says.

The second possibility is to inspect cells that have dropped from the womb into the woman's cervix. This procedure, known as transcervical recovery, is also being looked at by Dr Miller.

Scientists have already developed a way of screening so-called "test-tube" embryos before they are implanted into a mother-to-be. Dr Joy Delhanty, from University College London, is working with the fertility unit at Hammersmith Hospital, the only hospital in the UK licensed to screen embryos. The team tests for both life-threatening conditions,

'When we have tested the embryos, the mother chooses the healthiest'

sex-linked problems such as haemophilia, and susceptibility to cancer. "It is slightly different from prenatal screening, because the pregnancy hasn't started," says Dr Delhanty. "We test lots of embryos and then the mother can choose the healthiest."

She does not think that scientific developments will lead to a stampede by parents anxious to chart their child's future health. "Most families will not be affected by a whole spectrum of diseases, so testing will probably be restricted to those most likely to develop," she says. "Also, the cost implications for screening every baby are enormous."

Professor Nicholas Wald, a prenatal screening expert at Bart's Hospital Medical College, agrees: "We have the technology to mass-screen for cystic fibrosis but we don't do it. So why should we do it for anything else?"

ANJANA AHUJA



Mother and baby: a revolution in medical science is under way — from helping couples who once would have been cursed with childlessness to predicting a lifetime's health profile

Is this the cure for male infertility?

HOW THOUSANDS MAY BE HELPED

Thousands of men who cannot produce fully-formed sperm could soon be able to father children. Doctors have developed a method of extracting spermatozoa from the testes and then injecting it into the egg in a laboratory dish. The fertilised egg is then returned to the woman's womb to develop into a baby.

Last month, the technique resulted in the birth of a healthy baby girl, Susan Louise Oxborough, whose parents live in Aberdeen. Dr Simon Fishel, scientific director of Nottingham University's non-profit-making research and treatment unit in reproduction (Nurture), who pioneered the technique, says he now hopes to conduct trials involving more than 100 couples whose only hope of having their own child is spermatozoa injection. He is awaiting approval from the Human

Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. Dr Fishel believes that spermatozoa injection is far more revolutionary than traditional test-tube baby treatment. "In nature, this form of pre-sperm is never intended to fertilise the egg. The technique is about as invasive as you can get," he said.

One in six couples suffer from infertility and in about half the cases it is the male partner who has the problem. Last year about 3,000 babies were born in Britain as a result of treatments using donor sperm. "About 95 per



Fatherhood — a dream made possible by scientists

cent of men whose infertility is now being treated using donor sperm could actually have their own genetic child," said Dr Fishel.

Spermatozoa injection is not available on the NHS and each treatment

will cost almost £3,000. Scientists at Nurture hope that it will prove as successful as a technique known as ICSI, intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection, in which a single sperm is selected and injected into the egg in a laboratory dish. The "take home baby" success rate of ICSI at Nurture is now 27 per cent.

Dr Fishel says there were fears that by bringing egg and sperm together so soon, the complex set of checks and balances required to allow the foetus to develop normally might be disturbed. But the fears seem to be groundless: the

development of spermatozoa into fully-formed sperm seems mostly to involve its development of a tadpole-like tail to help it to reach the female egg in the uterus.

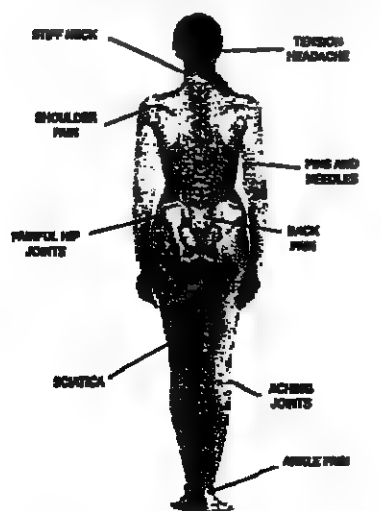
Within the next 18 months, Dr Fishel and his team hope to achieve human pregnancies using an even more controversial method. This uses an even earlier form of pre-sperm called the spermatocyte. Scientists in Hawaii have recently reported the birth of normally healthy mice by injecting spermatocytes directly into mice eggs.

Dr Fishel estimates that about 7 per cent of infertile men produce only spermatids, and that a possible further 7 per cent produce only spermatocytes.

AILEEN BALLANTYNE

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Biologists throw new light on how eggs develop

All thanks to a mouse

THE FIRST mouse to be grown from an egg matured in a test-tube could herald a new era in reproductive biology. Not only will it help in understanding how eggs develop, but it could also improve the techniques of *in vitro* fertilisation used to help infertile women to have children.

Of course, eggs have been successfully fertilised outside the body for years, but these have all been mature eggs harvested after women were treated with powerful hormone drugs to encourage ovulation. The new work, by John Eppig and Marilyn O'Brien of the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, has pulled off the same trick, but starting from the egg precursors, called oocytes.

So far, only a single mouse has been born, but it is healthy and normal. Biologists have been trying to grow oocytes for years, and the success, published last month in *Biology of Reproduction*, has been greeted

with enthusiasm. "Just having one mouse born means that it is possible," Joanne Fortune of Cornell University told *Science*. "That's the important first step that we all needed to see."

All female mammals, including human beings, are born with thousands of oocytes, which mature one by one into eggs. The process of maturation, which in the mouse takes three weeks, involves signals which pass



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

to the oocytes from the cells which surround them in the ovaries, called the granulosa cells. Dr Eppig has been trying to study these messages by culturing mixtures of oocytes and granulosa cells in a dish.

For a long time, he could not make it work, but then he and his research assistant Marilyn O'Brien stumbled on the answer. By culturing entire mouse ovaries for several days before exposing the

oocyte-granulosa cell complexes to enzymes, and then supplying growth factors and stimulatory hormones, they persuaded about 40 per cent of the oocytes to mature.

When fertilised with mouse sperm, the eggs divided to the two-cell stage. Then they were placed back into surrogate mouse mothers. Only one of 190 transferred actually grew into a live-born mouse pup, so there is clearly plenty of room for fine-tuning. Varying the conditions should throw light on the process by which the oocytes develop.

The technique has possibilities for human use, although that is some way off. Oocytes may be easier to store than eggs, and the large number of eggs needed for successful *in vitro* fertilisation might be easier to obtain in this way than by dosing women with hormones. But keeping human oocytes alive and healthy through the long period of maturation is likely to prove a demanding task.

Help from a single injection

AN IMPROVED version of the hormone often given to women to treat infertility could make the process easier and much more effective. Many infertile women are treated with FSH (follicle-stimulating hormone) to promote ovulation. But FSH breaks down quickly in the body, necessitating repeated injections, sometimes several a day.

Dr Irving Boime, of Washington University Medical School in St Louis, has made FSH more resistant to breakdown by borrowing a sub-unit from a related hormone, human chorionic gonadotropin, and attaching it to FSH. Animal studies show that it lasts three times as long in the body, and Dr Boime believes that the modified FSH may prove to be more controllable.

Protein boosts children's IQ

A STUDY in Guatemala has shown that nutritional supplements given to pregnant women and their babies can have significant effects on the children's mental development.

Between 1969 and 1977, more than 2,000 mothers and children in four villages were given either a high-protein supplement called Atole, or a fruit drink called Fresco, with no added protein. Following up more than ten years later, Dr Ernesto Pollitt of the University of California tested the children with a range of verbal, mathematical and IQ tests.

From mummies to motherhood

3-D SCANNING

AN ultrasound scanning technique used to create a three-dimensional image of the inside of Egyptian mummies may allow doctors to detect foetal abnormalities early.

They would be able to track the growth of babies' vital organs and identify those which were likely to have health problems. Then they would be able to perform prenatal surgery, or if the mother decided to end her pregnancy, she would be able to do so at an early stage.

A clinical trial of the method on 200 pregnant women has just been completed at St Thomas' Hospital, in London, by Professor Anthony Milner and Darryl Maxwell and results are still awaited. The trial focused on the liver. Another study, starting this spring, will concentrate on the lungs — the last organ to be fully developed in the womb.

The technique was developed by Dr Stephen Hughes, a medical physicist at St Thomas'. He wrote a sophisticated "computer" program which converts a succession of conventional two-dimensional ultrasound slices into a three-dimensional image.

His software was originally used by the British Museum to determine the cause of death of Ancient Egyptians. During this work he hit upon the idea of adapting it to produce computer images of unborn children.

Researchers claim that the technique is safer than conventional ultrasound methods because only one sweep is needed to produce an image. But it may be a long time before such imaging is widely used. Stuart Campbell, Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at King's College Hospital, says: "Until the research is published, we don't know if the new technique can pick up abnormalities that conventional scanning methods will miss. I very much doubt it."

ANJANA AHUJA

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When the Queen comes to stay she shares the family roast. Mary Riddell meets Lady Carnarvon

FOR A time the imposing front doors of Highclere Castle stayed closed. It would be better, an aide had suggested, to shuffle the paying public through the humble rear entrance next to the tearoom.

While no member of the *nouveau-pauvre* British aristocracy is averse to offloading a cheese scone or two on the Sierra-driving masses, Lady Carnarvon remained unhappy with the new arrangement. "We tried it for a while, but it didn't sit right with us. I believe the visitors should be welcomed properly."

Meanwhile, and more remarkably, in the little house just down the drive, the Queen was parking her wellies in the small entrance hall next to the dog's bed. Later her supper would be prepared in the cramped back kitchen where the only concession to haute cuisine is a packet of Bonitos by the sink.

"She can come here and know that there's no one about," Jean Carnarvon will tell you. "No, she'd never stay at the castle — always here with us. She knows her way round, and it's like home really — a sort of haven."

As much like her royal guest, the 7th Lady Carnarvon enjoys the quiet life. Charming, unpretentious and the most unlikely of chateaulaines, she has remained resolutely in the background while her husband, the Queen's racing manager, has provided the front-of-house panache essential to the selling of a stately home.

But times are hard and costs astronomical. Scaffolding, as normal, obscures the castle's Gothic-Victorian splendour, and the manila envelopes pile up on the doormat. With upkeep bills alone running at £250,000 a year, slick marketing must never be underestimated. And so the financial imperative has decreed for Lady Carnarvon, an acutely shy woman, a starring role in the film of her life.

Downstairs Upstairs is a forthcoming New First programme for Carlton, and she is clearly anxious. "Well, it wasn't quite what we expected. Let it be a lesson."

There was always going to be a difficulty, since Highclere is rather thin on the Downsides. Nevertheless she had hoped, rather optimistically, for yards of



Lady Carnarvon: intensely shy and loath to talk about her royal connections, but financial pressures have persuaded her to put herself and her family in the limelight

Just good friends

worthy footage of Lord Carnarvon accomplishing sterling work for regional planning and demonstrating to the House of Lords that hereditary peers are a jolly good thing. What seems to have emerged instead is Berkshire's belated answer to *Dynasty*.

The setting: a crumbling but fabulous stately pile. The cast: dashing heir (Geordie, Lord Porchester), glamorous younger offspring (daughter Carolyn, married to John Warren, and Harry, married to Chica who does the food), plus, in supporting roles, assorted adorable grandchildren and world-beating racehorses. The

plot: the fairy-tale marriage of the beautiful teenager from Wyoming and the man who has long been one of Her Majesty's dearest friends.

Cut and fade to the drawing-room of Lady Carnarvon's bungalow (think Palladian, not Baroque), where unframed school pictures of her grandchildren are propped on the mantelpiece below ancestral oils. She is 60 now, still beautiful, and accustomed to a life which — even by the standards of hard-pressed aristocracy — is almost schizophrenic in its contrasts.

On the one hand, there is the family fortune of £45 million and treasures including the Tutankham-

unobscured complete legend has it, with the dead king's curse by the 5th Earl.

On the other, there is a constant need for thrift. "Could I blow a fortune on a Valentino suit? Certainly not. I'm not in that league. I wear Marks & Spencer or buy from local boutiques in Newbury."

"Usually we'll have supper in front of the TV. I always cook unless we have people to stay." Even her green Aga, in which the Queen's roast dinners ("just what the family would be having") are prepared, was affordable only when her husband's top racehorse had a particularly fine season.

When the Queen comes to in-

spect her yearlings, the routine alters only slightly. The two spare bedrooms are aired, a cook brought in. "Sometimes Prince Philip comes, and in the old days Prince Charles used to visit from school, and we'd potter along the lake. I think some people might fuss, but we're not breaking new territory. We've been doing it for a very long time, you see."

Brought up in Big Horn, Wyoming, Jean Wallop was 13 before she saw a town or crossed a road and 19 when she met her future husband at a London lunch party. Coffee was scarcely served before the then Lord Forchester was crossing the Atlantic to inform her

fiancé that he would be marrying her instead.

Painfully self-effacing, knowing that her university career was ruined and her father heartbroken at losing her, she married in 1956. Queen Elizabeth — who was to be godmother to her elder son — was 29, three years into her reign and the figurehead of a world the new Lady Forchester found intimidating and, occasionally, repellent.

"My husband was wonderful, but for the first two years all I seemed to do was meet people. The racing world was the most daunting. The Newmarket trainers in those days were really formidable people, and to them I was just a

little nothing. Even now, although my daughter lives there, and I love visiting, I get a sort of feeling in the pit of my stomach when I approach the town."

The Queen herself was distantly welcoming. "Well, it was very formal. I'd curtsy, do all the normal things. All those things were observed and still are."

As the years passed, the cultures began to overlap. Recently the Queen ended a trip to Kentucky stud farms at the three-bedroom house Lady Carnarvon keeps in the wilds of Wyoming. "My house was completely surrounded by Secret Service — so many of them that the deer all disappeared. There's a little bungalow next door, which was useful for the staff, and we all jammed in somehow."

She is loath to talk about her royal connections, scrupulous in protecting the private bolthole her family has supplied for 40 close years. "The focus on them is horrendous. It definitely is. It's got beyond the realms of anything that's really tolerable, if — like the Duke of Edinburgh — you can't even have a private phone conversation with a friend."

She has only rarely experienced such intrusion. When, as she plans to, she reads Sarah Bradford's biography of the Queen (which she is saving as a holiday book) she will come upon the old rumour — malicious, untrue and denounced as such by Bradford — that her husband was Prince Andrew's father.

It is unlikely to trouble her, for Lady Carnarvon — the outsider to the British aristocracy — has succeeded where so many of her peers have failed in creating a stable family life.

Her only sadness is that her older son, Geordie, is about to be divorced, in an echo of the collapsed marriages — which have haunted the Carnarvon dynasty. When she first took over a grim, dusty, dank Highclere, the pervading atmosphere was one of neglected gloom.

"I know it sounds politically incorrect, but it hadn't had a woman in there for 50 years." Out went the dim lighting and the faded furnishings. In came pictures of her grandchildren and displays of spring bulbs.

In too came weddings and receptions, movie conferences, outdoor concerts, glossy magazine promotions, in a survival model which has become the envy of the impoverished aristocracy.

Marketing herself, her marriage and her children for the TV cameras has been less tolerable. "The limelight is not my natural place, but we all have to do what we can to help."

Duty, as her favourite and equally parsimonious house-guest would agree, must prevail.

Life begins when the Aha! moment comes

WHEN the muscular, fiery-eyed Tina Turner went on tour three years ago, she proved to a generation of American women that there was not just life after menopause — there was rock 'n' roll.

When, at 45, Lauren Hutton

posed for a New York fashion spread in overalls and desert boots, she too went through an epiphany on behalf of her sex: she realised you don't have to be 21 and half-naked to be beautiful and paid for it.

Such women, Gail Sheehy

argues in her provocative best-seller, *New Passages*, to be published in Britain shortly, are the pioneers of a generation that is defying biology to enter a whole new phase of the human life cycle: a grown-up adventure of new careers, new

passions, lively sex and carefree hedonism that she refers to as our second adulthood. Near the beginning of her book, Sheehy announces with gusto that Western women who reach 50 without suffering heart disease or cancer can now expect to live at least another 40 years. The question is how to make the most of them.

It is a burning question, not least because women celebrating their fiftieth birthdays this year are the baby boomers' vanguard. Born the year after the Second World War ended, they led the sexual revolution by trying out the Pill. They stopped taking it to have families but still fought to keep careers. Later, with the help of books like Sheehy's *The Silent Passage*, they broke down age-old taboos about the discussion and treatment of the effects of the menopause.

NOW THEY — and Sheehy — are emerging at the far end of their silent passage. She laments that they face a void. They have "no instructions for what a woman should be after she has finished making babies" and bringing them up — a task that more and more women find they have completed with fully half their lives still to live.

She protests that "research on over-fifties has concentrated on disease, widowhood, retirement, meaninglessness and impoverishment". And, in a confession of her relentlessly upbeat agenda, she declares: "It's high time we look at what goes right with us: the sources of love, purpose, fun, sexual pleasure, spiritual companionship and sustained well-being that so many people are discovering in second adulthood, much to their surprise."

The book is based on exhaustive reading and research, and is peppered with factual nuggets. For example: a million American baby-boomers are expected to reach their 100th birthdays. The over-nineties are the country's fastest growing age group. The proportion of women aged 45 to 54 who have jobs



Tina Turner: second-adulthood pioneer

Giles Whittell reports from LA on a bestselling thesis for life after 50

will rise by 300 per cent over the next five years. The ratio of testosterone to oestrogen in those who have completed menopause is up to 20 times higher than in those still ovulating — which, research shows, may help to account for the resurgent energy and optimism of women in their mid-to-late fifties. And so on.

But *New Passages* is really all about semantics. One of its central themes is a concerted attack on the phrase "middle age" and all its debilitating connotations. In Sheehy's world "you're not getting older" after 50, "you're getting better". The process is not ageing but "sageing".

Middle age is replaced by the age of mastery (your flaming fifties), followed by the age of integrity (your serene sixties). Depression, alcoholism or divorce in your late forties need not be the

start of a long, sad slide into senility. They are merely symptoms of "mid-desecence", your last youthful rebellion, full of lessons in life that help you to move, at some point during your second adulthood, to "coalescence".

Sheehy's fetish for buzz-words first emerged in *Passages*, which she wrote when she was 35. That book did for early adulthood what this one does for people in their prime. But *New Passages* comes close to parodying itself with the introduction of something called the "Aha!" moment. This is unfortunate, since it turns out to be near the crux of Sheehy's thesis. She is wise enough to admit that no amount of self-help can be guaranteed to banish such ravages of ageing as illness, bereavement or loss of agility. But she insists repeatedly that the key to having fun and fulfilment despite them is a conscious reinvention of oneself at a particular moment, after children have flown or after resigning oneself to not having them, and usually in one's fifties. This is the Aha! moment.

For Lauren Hutton it came when her copy of *The New York Times* fell open at a photograph of some one so alluring in dungarees and desert boots that at first she didn't recognise herself. For Janet Mandaville, one of Sheehy's 500 or so interview subjects, it came at 50 when she acted on a whim for the first time in decades and went solo backpacking for eight months in the Australian outback. For Sheehy herself it came when she conquered her fear of diving through a wave off a Californian beach, and realised what her next book would be about.

BLINDING revelations are all very well. But what next? Stripped of anecdote and pop psychology, her practical advice on how to make the most of second adulthood is not strikingly original: women would do well to stop smoking, resist drinking more than two glasses of wine a day, do regular aerobic exercise and

perhaps some yoga. They should consider going back to work or university or both, and stop feeling duty-bound to provide their grown-up children with bed and board.

Men, she says, can be harder to advise. To make their passages to mastery and beyond they too should give up smoking. They should learn to let go of work as the chief public measure of their worth. Above all, they should own up to creeping impotence as the main threat to their private self-esteem. They

should talk it through with their partners, turning a loss into what Dr William Masters called "the privilege of exchanging vulnerabilities".

Whatever you make of such rhetoric Sheehy's basic challenge is compelling: "Will your personal life story in second adulthood be conceived as a progress story or a decline story? To a large degree you have the power of mind to make that choice." And if you share her indomitably sunny temperament, the rest should be a breeze. Just say "Aha!"

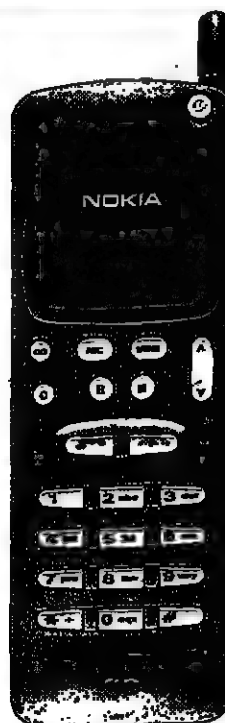
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Matthew Parris



■ Newspapers rely on buzz-words to arouse the reader's interest — and on fuzz-words to keep it

Buzzing an issue is not the prerogative of politicians, but an essential skill for journalists too. The world presents a bewildering variety of "facts": an array of potential news items practically infinite in number from which no clear pattern emerges, and to list which at random would baffle our readers. Our job, like every writer's, is to tell a story. We seek patterns, plots, meaning if you like, in the world.

Much of a journalist's work therefore involves identifying possible stories, then servicing them. Once established, a story needs to be nurtured, so that the newspaper becomes a sort of serial, with daily instalments, involving a running series of plots and subplots, with a recognisable cast of characters. Otherwise (like a soap opera into which too many characters are introduced and the stories go nowhere), the audience's attention wanders.

My field, politics, presents exceptionally clear examples. We chart a leader's "rise" and "fall". We discover "plots" and "conspiracies". We establish "strong", "weak" and "gaffe-prone" characters: we divine dissent and disaffection; we purport to describe "mood" among politicians. All this requires creative writing — and I do not, by that, mean we lie; we craft our stories.

How? Part of a journalist's trade consists of choosing the story. But, having chosen it, he must write it in language which lends a hard edge to what may be an amiable narrative. He achieves this by a combination of buzz-words and fuzz-words. The buzz-words are notorious. "Measures" come in "packages". "Blood on the carpet" echoes out the "political faultlines".

Less often noticed are the fuzz-words. These are the nuts and bolts which seem to hold a story together. Their purpose is to imply some linkage between events occurring in different places at different times. The problem is that this linkage is not always obvious, may not exist at all, and is in any case difficult to prove.

Unlike children's storytellers we are supposed to be reporting reality. But reality is unreportable, so the challenge is, while appearing to report, to draw readers into an inference, without ourselves making the claim, pushing a story forward while leaving open a means of retreat in case of a challenge. There is a stackful of key words, phrases and images essential to this task.

The simplest way is to state a chronological relationship between events, and to imply by this a causal one — but without stating it. "After a series of embarrassing attacks on his leadership, Tony Blair yes-

terday sought to regain the initiative in a speech..." The art here is the words "after", "series", "embarrassing" and "regain". "After" suggests (but does not state) that the attacks prompted the speech. They may not have. "Series" suggests (but does not state) that the attacks are linked, part of a "story" of discontent. There may be no such linkage. "Embarrassing" implies (but does not state) that Mr Blair was embarrassed. He may not have been. "Regain" suggests (but does not state) that the initiative had been lost. That is a matter of opinion.

But it is the "after" here which is critical to the linkage which forms the story's mainspring. Of course everything happens either after, before or at the same time as everything else. Pointing this out is either meaningless or tedious. "Following" and "in the wake of" (or "aftermath") of, like "poised to" or "on the eve of", are heavily relied upon for the same effect. Most common of all is "as". "As John Major struggled to reassert Bill Cash yesterday

Journalists may well need these devices, but readers should know about them too

claimed..." The implication may or may not be true, but the journalist seeks to keep both his bun and his hat, penny by penny, by subtly implying the inference, without hazarding it as the newspaper's own opinion.

The second means by which we imply a pattern or linkage is by insinuating not chronological but spatial relationships. Facts "together with" other facts are reported. Individuals are "at the centre of" (or "linked to") events, which then "spiral" or form part of a "downward spiral". Set-backs are part of a "rash" or "outbreak". Demands come in "choruses". Gains are part of a "pattern" of success.

Thirdly there is a journalistic staple, the implied dynamic. Key words here include "wave", "growing", "mounting", "increasing", "rocketing", "spreading", "heightened", "falling" and "plummeting". To read our prose, you might imagine that the future really comes in waves — whereas, as someone once observed, it comes on little cat's feet. But the wave is vital to newspapermen, for the wave is the story. It provides for follow-up stories. It creates a memorable image out of what may be no more than the observation that something has happened twice or more. Heightening public interest in a phenomenon makes it more reportable. So further examples are reported and the story continues a way — not of instances, but of reports. I doubt whether a political journalist can avoid recourse to these devices. But devices they are. Readers should be aware of them.

If the IRA really wants a united Ireland, it should not have blown apart the nationalist coalition

Isle of Dogs may be the IRA's Waterloo

William Rees-Mogg

but from the nationalist débâcle. The public does not have any idea who decided to resume the bombing. We can see Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, but they are the leaders who were repudiated. Who were the leaders who thought that a bomb in east London was better than a coalition of nationalist sympathy which stretched from Dublin to the White House? How do their minds work? There were two contrasting public opinions in Ireland which may have influenced the IRA leaders. On the one hand, there were some Irish nationalists who thought the peace process was simply a posthumous operation by the British. They argued that words were not getting anywhere, so it would be better to go back to bombs. No doubt that feeling was widespread. In the IRA itself, both north and south of the border, perhaps some of these people had not wanted the ceasefire in the first place. They certainly did not understand the success of Gerry Adams's diplomacy.

The IRA leaders may have been even more worried by the very popularity of the ceasefire, particularly among the Roman Catholics of Northern Ireland. Indeed many Northern Ireland Catholics, particularly in the middle class, have by now become covert Unionists. They want peace far more than they want a united Ireland; many of them do not want a united Ireland at all. To the IRA men, the peace process may have

threatened to bring about long-term Catholic acquiescence in the Union; they may also have felt that peace would make the IRA itself redundant. It would offer a role for Sinn Féin, but not for them. They may well have been jealous of Gerry Adams, negotiating on behalf of their power base. In their previous bombing campaign in London, the IRA had stumbled on an economic target which it must have been tempted to hit again. The older London, down to the buildings of the 1950s, is solid.

When the car bomb was detonated outside Harrods, it killed some passers-by, but the damage to the Harrods building was soon repaired at moderate cost. From the 1960s onwards, the most important new buildings were constructed of what Lord Curzon called "brass and glass". A bomb could blow out the glass and distort the framework, so that the cost of repair was close to that of replacement. £1,000-worth of explosive can do £100 million of damage, a high return on the terrorist investment. Since London has

been a terrorist target throughout the period of most of this new building, it was very imprudent architecture; it has given the IRA an almost unlimited supply of vulnerable high-value targets.

There may also be people in the IRA who did believe in the peace process, but thought it needed a jolt, to remind everyone of what the IRA could do. A few weeks of spectacular terror, followed by another ceasefire, would from its point of view be the best way to force the British Government to the negotiating table. The nationalist coalition could then be reassembled, and it would be argued that the new opportunity should be taken quickly, because the British had been too slow to take the old one.

It is true that the Ulster Protestants would probably play a greater role in a united Ireland than they do in the United Kingdom. They are probably the tougher and better educated community; they could well dominate much of Irish life, particularly in business. As the strength of the Catholic Church declines in the South, northern Protestants might prefer to be important in Ireland rather than to go on being relatively unimportant in Britain. I doubt if that is what most nationalists want: they love the old Celtic Catholic culture, which is already losing to the urban modernism of the new Ireland, as the referendum on divorce showed. Add the Protestant modernism of the North and the old Ireland would be decisively outweighed. The border has come to be more of a protection than a threat to the old Celtic Catholic culture.

That piles paradox on paradox. The IRA survives because it fits into ancient Irish myths of oppression, rebellion and bloodshed. Its purpose is to unite Ireland, but Ireland can only be united, if it ever is, by a process in which peace is the first step and persuasion the second. The Protestants have to be persuaded that a united Ireland would be a better home for them than a rather cold and distant United Kingdom. The great obstacle to this process, either of peace or persuasion, is the IRA, which has even now destroyed the strongest nationalist coalition of modern Irish history. Yet if Ireland were united, the old Celtic Catholic Ireland would inevitably lose out to the new modern and partly post-Christian Ireland of Dublin and Belfast. Subjectively, the IRA wants to unite Ireland; objectively, it keeps Ireland divided. Subjectively, a united Ireland would be a victory for the Celtic myth; objectively, it would destroy Celtic Ireland.

At young Malcolm's feet

Peter Riddell on the prospect of White Papering over the Tories' Euro-divisions



Malcolm Riddell wants to be the great unifier of the Conservative Party over Europe. His vehicle will be the White Paper due early next month on the Government's approach to the inter-governmental conference (IGC). This may, and should, confirm a new Tory consensus on Europe, but will it represent a credible negotiating position for Britain? Ever since the Maastricht battles of three years ago, these two aims have been in conflict.

Mr Riddell is in an easier position than his predecessor, Douglas Hurd, who was the reasonable man in an unreasonable world. But he was frustrated, if never quite defeated, by the fissiparous tendencies of his party. That is why Mr Hurd last year opposed a White Paper on Europe, for fear that it would exacerbate Tory divisions. Now, in more harmonious circumstances, Mr Riddell favours one because it may demonstrate unity. He is keen to appear as the conciliator, building bridges to reach loyalist sceptics such as Sir Michael Spicer's European Research Group. Mr Riddell welcomed John Redwood's statement last week about the White Paper, not because he agrees with all the detailed proposals, but for its more constructive tone, accepting that Britain's future is in the European Union. Some of Mr Redwood's allies were annoyed that at the launch news conference Bill Cash blurred this positive impression with typically unimproving remarks.

But Mr Riddell's sceptical tone has annoyed some pro-European ministers who used to regard him as an ally. They suspect him of shifting last year so as to make himself a more broadly acceptable Foreign Secretary, and now to boost his chances in

any future leadership battle. His odds are improving in these stakes, although he is still disliked by the keepers of the Thatcher flame for alleged unreliability and inconsistency in her later years. In his defence, he claims that as the British representative in the mid 1980s on the Dooge committee which preceded the Single European Act, he opposed a single currency, greater powers for the European Parliament and more majority voting.

Nonetheless, the White Paper is unlikely to satisfy headline sceptics. It will pull together existing statements and conclude with, in the words of one minister, some of the "vision thing". It may, therefore, seem bland. But more important is the attempt to lower expectations, to avoid laying down demands for repatriation of powers which the sceptics would like but which are, in

practice, unachievable. The White Paper will not discuss monetary union, where Mr Riddell favours keeping open Britain's options since he wants to retain influence on a decision which could have a profound impact on the country.

The official line on the IGC is low-key: there is nothing Britain desperately needs. There is no big wish-list. There are some changes we would like, such as the creation of an appeals mechanism in the European Court of Justice and limitation of the retrospective impact of its rulings where there has been no blatant intention to flout directives, as in the case of the pregnant servicewomen. The Government wants to change the balance of voting on the Council of Ministers, to alter the six-monthly

presidency system to favour larger states, and to give national parliaments more say in the preparation of European legislation.

The Government opposes significant changes in qualified majority voting and in the powers of the European Parliament (except in controlling the Commission), and is strongly against any attempt to move away from an inter-governmental approach to foreign, justice and immigration policies, or any undermining of NATO's central role in European defence.

The Labour Party agrees much more with the Tories than it does with other European left-of-centre parties on such matters as defence and border control. Apart from the social chapter opt-out, the two parties differ mainly over Labour's support for an extension of qualified majority voting on social, environmental and region-

al issues. The gap is far narrower than either party pretends. If there is a Blair government, other European countries might be surprised to hear many familiar British objections expressed by new Labour ministers. It might be akin to the Potsdam Conference in 1945, when Attlee replaced Churchill in the middle of proceedings, but in Stalin's evident displeasure, there was no real change of policy.

The main change if Labour won would be in attitude and language, and perhaps in the room for manoeuvre in negotiation. By contrast, the forthcoming White Paper may not leave ministers with sufficient flexibility to reach agreement. In the short term, these tactics suit John Major and Mr Riddell: if Britain has no urgent demands, it is also in no hurry to complete the IGC. Delay would keep the sceptics quiet before the election.

But this is not sustainable. Germany and France may not want an ambitious Maastricht Two, but they regard the IGC as a necessary first step to far more important questions of EU enlargement and monetary union. While there has been much smugness in London over the recent doubts in Germany about the timetable for monetary union, no one should underestimate Chancellor Kohl's determination to press ahead. Meanwhile, even preliminary talks on enlargement cannot start until the IGC is over.

The IGC is a distraction from these central issues and from the need to re-establish public confidence in the European Union. In theory, it should not be hard to compromise in the IGC on minor institutional adjustments to qualified majority voting and the like, but the Major Government does not look like being able to agree even small changes, such as the internal Tory opposition to any concessions. In that respect, the White Paper may be more of a Tory party concordat than a realistic long-term plan for Britain's European policy. Mr Riddell's success in achieving the former may only defer decisions on the latter. Britain seems condemned never to resolve its relationship with the rest of Europe.

Top counsel

LORD LONGFORD, the nonagenarian who has long campaigned on behalf of Myra Hindley, has taken up a new cause. He has been devoting his energies to Kevin Maxwell, who was last month cleared of fraud charges after giving evidence for more than 70 hours.

The other day, Lord Longford entertained Kevin, his wife Pandora, and his counsel, Alan Jones, QC, to a celebratory lunch at a discreet Polish restaurant in Kensington. The acquittal was celebrated with occasional snaps of vodka, and Longford pledged his commitment to helping Maxwell through his next ordeal — the fresh prosecution

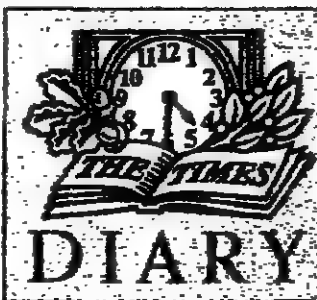


Pandora and Kevin

by the Serious Fraud Office described by Pandora as the "last lash of the dragon's tail". There was one absentee from the lunch, however. Lady Longford, the royal biographer, had tripped on a pavement that morning. She fell on her face and felt unable to attend. "I didn't want to frighten anybody. I look like a Tamil Tiger with two furious black eyes. It's perfectly menacing."

Name game

LORD HOWE of Aberavon revisits Cheiving Place, and takes its listeners on a guided tour of the house. A nostalgic programme, its most poignant moment comes when Howe points out some trees in the garden. "There are three trees we planted in honour of our first ministerial dog, so to speak," he says with a lump in his throat. "Budget was the dog I had when I was Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sadly, he was killed not long after we came here, and there are trees in his memory." He adds that the plaque doesn't record the result of a competition



run by Marcia Falkender in a national newspaper for the best name for a Foreign Office dog, as opposed to a Treasury dog. "She was mischievous enough to give the prize to someone who called it Fudge It," says Howe sadly. "But we called it Summit instead."

Hat trick

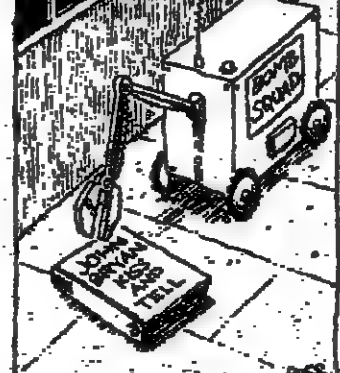
PRINCE EDWARD'S girlfriend, Sophie Rhys-Jones, attracted admiring glances at a society wedding in London on Saturday on account of her hat, a wide-brimmed felt affair with a distinctive red, green and purple-striped band. But as guests of Damian Riley-Smith and his bride Pippa were leaving the church, she noticed somebody else wearing exactly the same hat. She nudged the Prince

to point out the sartorial faux pas, drew her hand to her mouth in mock horror — and then convulsed into giggles behind her Order of Service.

No tears

AS I mentioned last week, Teresa Gorman is less than pleased about the reference to her in Edwina Currie's desperate bonkbuster as a "begrudging little granny", and she retaliated insult for insult.

But Teresa does not appear to be alone in finding Edwina's Pepsi-scented smile a little hard to stomach.



Gillian Shepherd regales dinner guests with the story of a visit to a factory in her own constituency where workers were peeling onions. When the Education Secretary's eyes started to stream and her mascara began to run grotesquely, she says, she was promptly mistaken by factory staff for the author of authors, Edwina Currie.

● Tony Blair's plans to reform the Lords have not made the stuff in its library any more worldly. When Lord Hailsham ambled in the other day and asked for a volume of Wordsworth's poems, the individual on the desk looked up helpfully. "And what would be Mr Wordsworth's Christian name, sir?"

Just testing

A SEVERE blow to learner drivers comes in a bulletin from Scotland, where an Aberdeen publisher, Keith Murray, has finally given up the struggle after 35 attempts to pass his test.

One might have thought that after some 1,450 lessons and £9,000 spent trying to learn to drive over the past decade, he would be in with a chance. But he says he will not be filling in a 36th test application form. "I really don't think I could take another disappoint-



Are they by any chance related? The Duchess and Connell

ment," says Keith. "I'm a nervous person at the best of times and I just couldn't handle doing my test with someone sitting beside me watching my every move."

He claims that fate conspired against him from the start. In his first test, ten years ago, he ended up following a hearse back to the test centre. "I knew it was a bad omen — I just didn't realise quite how bad."

Evening job

IT MUST HAVE been the spectacular stage lighting at the English National Opera's impressive *Tris-*

tan and Isolde on Saturday, I could have sworn that the Duchess York had found employment as a diva.

Her statuesque figure appeared to glide serenely across stage, her hair falling gently about her shoulders and tragedy unfolding all around as she upstaged the opera.

ENO claims that Isolde's real voice was that of the famous soprano Elisabeth Schwarzkopf — but could it not have been cash-strapped Duchess singing her supper?



THEMSELVES ALONE

Democrats should talk to each other, not the IRA

The human and financial cost of the London Docklands bomb is still being counted. The way forward politically through the wreckage of the peace process remains unclear, but the need to reaffirm certain key principles has never been clearer.

The first is a straightforward refusal to engage in talks with a terrorist organisation actively prosecuting a murderous campaign. John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, has made it clear that Sinn Féin cannot expect to get a word in his ear, let alone a place at any table, until there is a complete cessation of violence. It would be unthinkable if Sinn Féin representatives could continue to press their case in Dublin Castle drawing rooms while their comrades in arms sought to exact further concessions by physical force.

The resumption of the armed struggle by the IRA is a clear signal that the republican movement still, in its heart, believes that violence is the way to secure its end. For those who hoped to habituate Sinn Féin to democratic politics and all its attendant compromises, it is an uncomfortable thought that the men with real power in republican ranks still regard the bomb as the most effective solution to any argument.

Those nationalists, including members of the Irish Government, who are inclined to blame British intransigence for the IRA's return to violence should reflect on how little the republican mind has seemed to alter after nearly 18 months of peace. What if Britain had called all-party talks? What if, by some miracle, Unionists who had seen their constituents slaughtered by a criminal conspiracy had sat at the same table with the ill-armed apologists for those atrocities? Can anyone now be in doubt what would be the republican reaction to a settlement that all short of their goal? If simple impatience with the pace of movement towards talks can trigger a renewal of bombing, the IRA would certainly not have balked at returning to violence if the talks themselves did not go to way. The IRA still believes that the virtues which led to talks with the British began with the success of the bombing

campaign in the City. It has still to learn that violence does not pay.

The best way of reinforcing that message is to try to bind together all those with an interest in seeing democracy determine Northern Ireland's future. Although he remains cool towards the idea of an elected peace convention in Ulster, Mr Bruton should be encouraged to explore how common ground can be found between London and Dublin as well as democrats north and south.

Some nationalists argue that the Irish Government should keep talking to Sinn Féin. They are playing the IRA's game, giving licence to its programme of political and military advance. Constitutional nationalists should instead work towards agreement with the Unionist majority in Ulster, seeking mechanisms which can build institutional stability and safeguard the liberties of minorities. The Unionists have a role to play. Moderate Irish opinion is sickened by the IRA's actions but uncertain how to proceed. Rather than allow Sinn Féin's allies to make the running, Unionists should signal their readiness to talk to those in Dublin willing to see democracy entrenched in Ulster.

When the political path seems blocked there is always a temptation to fall back on a pure security solution. The Cabinet, rightly, spent much of last night reviewing what new measures must be taken. Dublin could also, with profit, move against the terrorists who continue to operate within its jurisdiction. But security measures alone will not solve the underlying causes of conflict. Terrorists must realise that the armed security forces on the streets express an iron political will to advance by democratic means and to resolve disagreements by politics. The IRA should be reminded that the future of Ulster is a matter for the people of the Province and their elected representatives and that this will not alter under threat of violence. If politicians in London, Dublin, Washington and Belfast can work together to uphold those principles, then there may yet be hope amid the rubble.

WARM ECONOMIC FRONT

Cheerful government forecasts are not wishful thinking

When the Government publishes its monthly unemployment and inflation figures this week, both are likely to be moving in the right direction — downwards. Ministers will declare that Britain now has the healthiest economy in Europe. Yet in the City, dozens of companies have given warning of disappointing profits; rarely a day passes without hundreds of new redundancies. For once, it is likely to be politicians rather than businessmen who offer the more reliable picture.

When they unveil their profits, company chairmen are, by definition, looking back at the past year's performance. But for 1996, some much more encouraging trends can clearly be discerned. Not only are the economic statistics showing improvement, but the elusive factor of confidence seems to be coming back. Gallup and MORI surveys last week, both of which showed modest swings of support back to the Tories, also revealed that consumers are becoming more confident about their financial future, less pessimistic about the state of the economy and less insecure about their jobs. Meanwhile the European Commission's Eurobarometer survey of business opinion published last week showed Britain as the only major economy in Europe where business confidence was now climbing.

On their own, these statistical indicators are no more than straws in the wind. Statistics can deceive almost as easily as enlighten. In 1990, the Treasury convinced itself on the basis of monthly statistics that there was no threat of a recession. A year ago, the Governor of the Bank of England was demanding higher interest rates: some carefully selected monthly statistics supported his idiosyncratic proposition that Britain was threatened by an inflationary boom. Statistics must be

set in the context of world economic conditions and the policies of governments and central banks at home and abroad. Fortunately, this context is steadily improving.

In Britain, interest rates are falling, the tax burden is modestly easing, employment is growing, albeit slowly, and wages are rising comfortably — but not yet alarmingly — faster than the rate of inflation. Two accidental financial factors in 1996 could even produce a mild consumer boom before the year is out: maturing tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) and windfalls from building society mergers will unlock some £35 billion — equivalent to 5 per cent of gross domestic product — in the next 18 months. Even if 80 per cent of this money were reinvested, and only 20 per cent were spent, the addition to consumer demand in the next 12 months would be worth about 1 per cent of GDP — the equivalent of a one-off reduction of 3p in the standard rate of tax.

The news from abroad is, at first sight, less cheerful. While the American and Japanese economies are almost certainly poised for a decent recovery, Britain's key export markets in Germany and France could well be on the brink of serious recessions. Yet even in Europe, the deflationary ice seems to be breaking. In France public opinion seems to have moved against the dangerous policies adopted in the name of EMU. In Germany, the Bundesbank is showing signs of genuine alarm about the economic damage it has caused in the past year. In both countries, interest rates are at or near record low levels — and further reductions almost certainly lie ahead. Thus even the British businesses which depend on exports to Europe have good reasons to hope that 1996 will prove a better year than 1995.

DELICIOUS CULTURE

Why French children must learn how to eat

"I live," that great wordsmith Molière has one of his characters say, "on good soup, not fine words." It must have been a slip of the pen. In no country could this distinction be more artificial, or less apposite, than in France. Since at least the time of Rabelais, ideas and food have gone together in France as nowhere else. No tables rival the French restauranters for variety, subtlety, constantly inventive skill — and commercial acumen. The language of gastronomy, free-market ambassador for France's claims to cultural distinctiveness, speeds French ideas across the globe far more effectively than its subsidised cinematic historical blockbusters can.

A France out of sympathy with Escoffier or the *cassoulet* would be cut loose from its history. It is hard to imagine any Frenchman saying, with Molière's near-contemporary, Swift, "I value not your bill of fare, give me your ball of company." But the food of the child maketh the taste of the grown man — witness the Spotted Dick of London clubs, and French children are coming to be more averse to garlic or *boeuf à la mode* than many an infant Mancunian.

One generation ago, a cockerel was to be seen elegantly perched on the back of a chair at a venerable Left Bank brasserie. This overgrown Easter chicken had joined the family at table to peck at a salad and sip

from a wine glass. Beside the bird, his seven-year-old mistress followed her *céleri remoulade* with two classics invented on the field of battle by French chefs: *sauté de veau Marengo* and *pommes soufflées*. Today, the cockerel's presence would doubtless breach hygiene regulations. Worse still, even if the grown-up child's daughter did not insist on being taken to a takeaway hamburger or pizza joint, she would demand *steak frites*.

It is therefore good news that the French are starting to fight the craze for *le fast food* — and in a manner befitting the masters of the omelette, the finest fast food in the world. British teachers may be reduced to emphasising "healthy" diets in schools; but in France, food is something to celebrate.

When French chefs tour schools to arouse children's curiosity about forgotten tastes and traditions, they give lessons in national excellence — and also in the virtues of the proud individualism which, de Gaulle used to complain, make the French ungovernable. Food is the Frenchman's riposte to the heavy hand of the bureaucrat, national or European. When he sided with French cooks against Brussels over unspiced cheese, the Prince of Wales did more for the *entente cordiale* than a trainload of diplomats. May French cooks of the future continue to repay a royal compliment, royally deserved.

Damage done to Irish peace hopes

From Sir David Mitchell, MP for Hampshire North West (Conservative)

Sir, The tragic events of last week (reports, article and leading article, February 10) bring into the open a question I have been asking myself for some time. Do the IRA (or perhaps it should now be did they) ever want the peace process to move forward?

Why else did they refuse to make even a token reduction in their weaponry? Why should they want to reach the democratic institutions towards which the peace process inevitably led? Why should they want to exchange centre stage for 10 per cent of a democratic mandate?

It seems a reasonable assumption that it was the prospect of an increasing tempo in the peace process which led them to opt out and opt for violence.

In Belfast last week, after an absence of some months, one could really feel the optimism and the dramatic improvement in the quality of life as both sides of the sectarian divide enjoyed the peace dividend. The best hope for the future of all who live in the island of Ireland is that the nationalist community gives no help and no refuge to those the police and Garda are now seeking.

Sadly yours,
DAVID MITCHELL
(Northern Ireland Minister, 1980-83),
House of Commons,
February 11.

From Mr M. Brooks

Sir, It must be obvious to anyone that a campaign of terror offers no solution to the problems of Northern Ireland. Every atrocity perpetrated by the IRA diminishes rather than enhances the prospect of their ever achieving the united Ireland for which they claim to strive. The London bombing is a futile act, achieving nothing more than the suffering of innocent civilians.

Nevertheless, this latest outrage presented Mr Gerry Adams with an unparalleled opportunity to condemn such wanton acts of terrorism and disassociate himself from them. Such a condemnation would have reinforced his credentials as a democratic politician and done something to reassure his political opponents in Northern Ireland that there is indeed a real and important distinction to be drawn between Sinn Féin and the IRA.

That instead he chose to express mere "sadness" at the bombing and blamed the British Government for it reveals him in his true colours. The political initiatives of the last 18 months have been based on the premise that Sinn Féin is an authentic political party capable of committing itself to the democratic process and eschewing support for violence. This now appears to have been false.

Until the British and Irish Governments face up to this unpleasant and depressing fact there will be no real progress towards the achievement of a long-term solution to the Northern Ireland problem.

Yours sincerely,
M. BROOKS,
Ty Newydd,
Nr Cowbridge, South Glamorgan,
February 10.

From Mrs V. M. Crews

Sir, The one statesmanlike act of John Major's premiership has, in my view, been his attempt to bring peace to Ulster.

Alas, because of his small majority, he could not afford to offend the Ulster Unionists and lose their support in the House of Commons.

The result: after 17 months still no round-table all-party talks in spite of the best efforts of Eire and the United States.

The best hope of peace in Ulster has been lost because John Major was, in the end, only a party-political leader and not a statesman.

Yours etc,
V. M. CREWS,
1 Deilfield Close, Beckenham, Kent,
February 9.

The Scott inquiry

From Mrs Monica Wilson

Sir, As a concerned and interested member of the public, I spent three days early in 1994 at the Scott inquiry (reports, February 8, 9; interview, February 10).

Two things struck me forcibly: the extreme courtesy and patience shown to witnesses, who were never hurried, harried or disparaged, and the apparent unease of public servants, who seemed unwilling to be questioned about their actions.

On each occasion I went home convinced that setting up the inquiry had been one of the best decisions the Prime Minister had made. I came to the conclusion that some of those who govern us have little respect for us and make it difficult for the whole truth to be uncovered; but I also concluded that the criticisms and recommendations eventually proposed by the inquiry were likely to make such attitudes unacceptable in the future and that we might well be on the threshold of a fundamental change in the conduct of public life.

I hope I shall not be proved wrong.
Yours etc,
MONICA WILSON,
6 Gawayne Road, W2,
February 10.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Hard decisions on the countryside

From Professor J. B. Cullingworth

Sir, The statement of unity on protecting the countryside by the three main party leaders (letter, February 9) is appealing to all who value the beauty of the English countryside, but the historical parallel is more potent than the three party leaders probably realise.

The earlier statement by Baldwin, MacDonald and Lloyd George was followed by development in the countryside on a massive scale: over two million houses were built in the following 11 years, with little regard to their surroundings or their impact. Despite major planning legislation, little effective action was taken to prevent this until the introduction of comprehensive land use controls under the Town and Country Planning Acts, in particular those of 1943, 1944 and 1947. These controls have been highly effective in controlling the urbanisation of the countryside.

We are now faced with the need to build a similar number of houses. Where are they to go? Some can be built in the existing cities (given the use of land acquisition powers and adequate funding for clearance and infrastructure). More can be built by the expansion of country towns and villages, though experience shows that this frequently leads to an increase in commuting by private car.

The majority of the houses will need to be built either on the edge of present urban areas or in new settlements. The powers exist, but they are predominantly being used to stop deve-

lopment, not to channel it to the most efficient locations.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England (who have achieved a real publicity scoop by persuading the party leaders to sign their letter) is vigorous in its opposition to what it sees as a threat to the countryside from excessive housing development and as a preoccupation with statistical methods of projecting household formation.

Every proposal for new development brings forth opposition of this kind, not only from the CPRE, but also from the residents of the areas where major new settlements could be developed. The town and country planning legislation is a godsend to those seeking to protect their own local interests — and MPs and ministers feel compelled to support them.

What is needed is a positive policy of promoting new towns in areas where the advantages of location, public transport and environmental quality can be maximised. Such developments will inevitably destroy some countryside values. The resolution of this conflict will require hard decisions and difficult choices between the goals of adequate housing and the preservation of areas of beautiful countryside.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. CULLINGWORTH,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Land Economy,
19 Silver Street, Cambridge,
February 9.

Judges' role in sentencing debate

From Mr Hugh Mooney

Sir, I cannot accept Mr Neville Goldring's view of the respective roles of politicians and judges in matters of sentencing (letter, February 9).

I suggest that Parliament and the judiciary are not so separate as Mr Goldring makes out. The Lord Chancellor is both a judge and a Cabinet minister. The top judges are made life peers, as are members of our law-making Parliament. They have a right and duty to speak out.

The mandatory life sentence for murder is an anomaly which should be ended, not extended. The sentence of the court, reached after a public trial and hearing of evidence, is surely to be preferred to a decision taken in secret long after the event by the Home Secretary and civil servants, who may be swayed by political and financial considerations.

If Mr Goldring really thinks that the politicians and judges should stick to their own lanes, then it would be more logical for him to urge the Home Secretary not to meddle with sentencing and trust the judges to use their discretion. Justice will be better served.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MOONEY,
1 Anchor Cottage, Prickwillow Road,
Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire,
February 6.

From Dr A. T. H. Smith

Sir, It is a great pity that, when the judges exercise the greater freedom of speech permitted to them by the current Lord Chancellor when he relaxed the Kilmuir rules, it should be denigrated by a senior MP as (according to the headline to a report in your earlier editions today) "sniping".

The judges are making a contribution to the debate about a matter in which they have considerable expertise. Their view is entitled to an airing; they are not seeking to make law, but openly to contribute their experience to the law-making process.

What could be more sensible than that? Would Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, have them return to their inscrutable purdah?

Yours faithfully,
A. T. H. SMITH,
Gonville and Caius College,
Cambridge,
February 6.

A new royal yacht

From Mr C. Harker

Sir, The idea of combining the function of a royal yacht and a sail training ship into one vessel to act as an ambassador for this country is most exciting.

I accept, as Rear-Admiral Bawtree states in Libby Purves's article (Weekend, February 3; see also letter, February 9), that the vessel must be "a zenith of good design", but we must not neglect the design for square rigged sailing ships reached at the end of the 19th century.

Just look at the *Cutty Sark*, or the iron square rigged built on the Clyde in the 1880s. Those of us who sail and maintain Thames barges, smacks and bawleys here on the East Coast know that today you may successfully use the materials and constructional methods of the 20th century to maintain the ships of the 19th century.

However, if you impose 20th-century thinking upon 19th-century design you end up producing a hybrid which is pleasing to neither modernist nor purist, and certainly does no credit to our maritime heritage.

Yours faithfully,
C. HARKER,
9 Sandringham Court,
Ipswich Road, Norwich, Norfolk.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Threat to Taiwan's new democracy

From Ms Hui-Chuan Wang

Sir, It is heartening to read your leading article ("Stand by Taiwan", February 6) which condemns unequivocally China's aggressive behaviour towards Taiwan.

It often seems to me that attention paid to Taiwan in this country focuses only on its economic success. However, democracy is more precious than the rate of economic growth. After decades under martial law, Taiwanese people are now enjoying the sweetness of freedom of speech.

This new-found freedom is being eagerly pursued in order to right the wrongs of the past. The aboriginal people of Taiwan, for example, are campaigning to save their languages and traditions and to combat discrimination. Women, workers, environmentalists, the disabled and many other groups are speaking up for changes in legislation. But just as we begin to have a taste of freedom, we are threatened by a more ruthless authoritarian regime.

The West seems to regard the divide between Taiwan and China mainly as a continuation of the feud between Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Tse-tung. But the divide goes deeper than that. Taiwan has not been ruled by Peking since 1895, when the island was ceded to Japan.

No one can deny that half a century of Japanese colonisation left indelible marks in many aspects of Taiwanese society. However much China likes to refer to itself as the "motherland", the Taiwanese have been apart from China for a very long time: our ancestors began to come to the island in the second half of the 17th century.

Taiwan has as good a case for seeking independence as Australia for becoming a republic.

Yours faithfully,
HUI-CHUAN WANG,
14 Cavendish Road, NW6,
February 6.

Healthy language

From Mr Richard Kaberry

Sir, Professor Jean Aitchison's Reith Lecture ("Why a healthy language has to sometimes break the rules", February 7) makes the correct, if not entirely original point, that language should be described rather than prescribed. But in advocating the relaxation of rigid rules she seems to imply that there is no such thing as "right" and "wrong" usage.

If a primary purpose of language is to get others to accurately understand what we wish to convey, then using a technically incorrect form that is nevertheless semantically crystal clear (such as "different" for "right") is something we should perhaps worry less about.

However, I wonder how Professor Aitchison would view the use of "continuous", when "continual" is meant? Or would she query the use of "infer" if she suspected that "imply" was meant? Such blurring of words with different meanings impoverishes the language, leaving one meaning where there were two and, more importantly, diminishing understanding. Such concerns are not merely pedantic.

Whilst we should applaud the general tenor of Professor Aitchison's approach, it would be regrettable if we came away with the impression that anything goes. There is still a place for teaching and advocating "good" usage.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD KABERRY,
15 Dorrington Road, Sale, Cheshire,
February 7.

A squirrel warning

From the National Chairman of the Timber Growers Association

Sir, Were Mr Harris (letter, February 9) one of the many woodland owners who have seen the work of a generation to grow crops of broadleaves ruined in weeks by bark-stripping following the displacement of red squirrels by greys, he would wonder no more why the greys need to be poisoned.

Poison is an emotive word. Warfarin at .02 per cent properly dispensed has no effect on other wildlife and is the best weapon that we have. It has no effect on birds. Other methods are on their way, but red squirrel populations are declining so fast that we have to act now using the best means at our disposal.

Yours faithfully,
MARK CRICHTON MAITLAND,
National Chairman,
Timber Growers Association,
198 Upper Richmond Road, SW15,
February 9.

Ways to fall asleep

From Mrs P. A. Booth

Sir, With reference to the Reverend R. J. Hills who prayed before going to sleep (letter, February 5; also letter, February 7), I do use this as a night-time exercise. However, I pray alphabetically, ie, A for Anne, B for Bob etc.

As I have never reached the letter "K", in fairness to my friends at the end of the alphabet, I am now praying backwards. Hopefully all will benefit.

Yours truly,
PAMELA A. BOOTH,
Fryton,
Derwent Lane, Hathersage,
Nr Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
February 7.



COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 10: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, UNICEF, this morning visited the Integrated Child Development Services, Varanasi, and the Gursandi Village Primary Education Project, Mirzapur, India.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Government School and the Bidha Village, Mirzapur.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 11: The Prince Edward,

Patron, this evening attended a Ball to mark the Fortieth Anniversary of the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London W1.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 11: The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal Choral Society, this evening attended a performance of the *Dream of Gerontius* given by the Society and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

Birthdays today

Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, 54; General Sir John Akhurst, 66; General Sir John Archer, 72; Mr Steve Backley, athlete, 27; Professor A.H. Beckett, former professor of pharmacy, 76; Mr Roland Boyes, MP, 59; Lord Brocket, 44; Mr Alexander Carlisle, MP, 48; Viscount Chandos, 43; Miss Anne Croxall, actress, 62; Mr Howard Davies, former Director-General, CBI, 45; Sir James Dunnell, civil servant, 82; Dr K.J.R. Edwards, Vice-Chancellor, Leicester University, 62; Mr Stephen Gibbs, former chairman, Turner and Newall, 78; Lord Granville of Epsom, 97; Lord Greene of Harrow Weald, 86; Mr Paul Hamlyn, publisher, 70; Miss Christine Hancock, general secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 55; Sir Robin Mackworth-Young, Librarian Emeritus to The Queen, 76; Lord Morison, 65; Lord Moyla, 73; Dame Alison Munro, former High Mistress, St Paul's Girls School, 82; Mr John Raitman, former chairman, Shell UK, 67; Mr Justice Roper, 64; Mr Fergus Slattery, rugby player, 45; Mr Peter Snape, MP, 54; the Hon Nicholas Soames, MP, 48; Mr Peter Temple-Morris, MP, 58; Sir Aubrey Trotman-Dickenson, former Principal, University of Wales College of Cardiff, 70; Lord Wigoder, QC, 75; Mr Albert Williams, trade unionist, 69.

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Patrons of Crime Concern, will launch the Legal and General kickstart handbook at the headquarters, Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, EC4, at 5.30, and will attend a Special Forces Club 50th anniversary reception and dinner at the Imperial War Museum at 7.40.

Luncheon

Royal Society of St George
The Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster, accompanied by Mrs Higgins, will be a speaker at a luncheon of the City of Westminster branch of the Royal Society of St George held on Saturday at the London Scottish Regimental Headquarters. Mr Robert M. Sewell, chairman, and Mr John Stanton, also spoke. Members of the society from New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia were present.

Service dinner

RMA Sandhurst
Officers of Waterloo Company, RMA Sandhurst, intake 6, held a dinner on Saturday at the Infantry Mess, Warminster, to mark the anniversary of commissioning. Major-General P.L. Chiswell presided.

Nature notes

BLUE TITS are going busy in and out of holes, prospecting for nest sites. The male birds are acquiring bright blue caps and backs and singing their faint song, like a brisk trickle of water. A few blackbirds are beginning to sing as the weather turns mild once more.

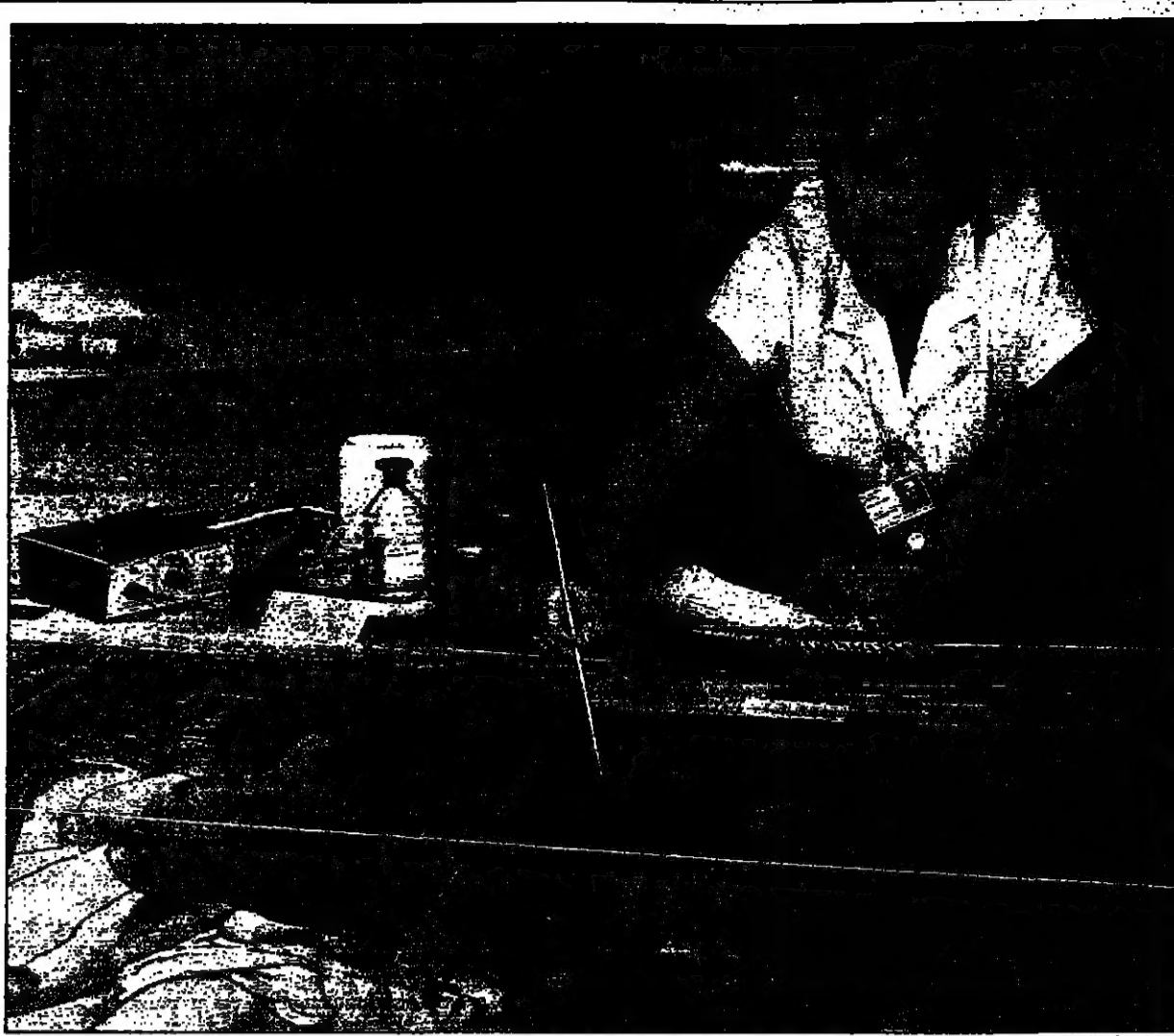


Raven: acrobatic courtship

Dandelions have rosettes of jagged leaves, and a bud like a small green thimble on a hollow, milky stalk in the middle. Woodlice huddle under stones in rockeries; they are relatives of shrimps and crabs, and always need to keep damp.

On the mountains and moors, ravens are courting the male wheats and alps, and sometimes flies for a moment on his back to impress the female. Some ravens are already building their bulky nests of sticks on ledges and in tree tops.

Winter wheat is coming through in the fields, and at the grassy edges field speedwell has heart-shaped leaves and small buds that will soon open into blue-and-white flow-



Arabella Davies cleaning the "double" cartoon for the Leighton exhibition at the V&A, which opens on Thursday

Clean-up uncovers 'lost' Leighton

By JOHN SHAW

TWO temporary art specialists working at the Victoria and Albert Museum have found the design for a fresco by Frederic Leighton that had been thought destroyed. Details of the discovery, by Gabrielle Jansen, 32, and Arabella Davies, 26, emerged for the first time yesterday.

On Thursday an exhibition of Leighton's work opens to mark the centenary of his death, and other major shows are taking place at the Royal Academy and his home in Holland Park, west London. Frederic Leighton was one of the dominant figures of late Victorian art. His two vast semi-circular frescoes showing figures in archite-

tural settings are the centrepiece of the V&A exhibition.

A crucial part of the display exploring his working methods will be a 35ft cartoon for one of them, *The Arts of Industry as Applied to Peace*, which was finished in November 1883. It has long been a mystery that while this survived intact, there was no record of what happened to its partner, *The Arts of Industry as Applied to War*, which was completed in 1877.

Miss Jansen, an art conservator trained in Florence, who was working on a temporary contract at the museum with Miss Davies, said they found it by accident while cleaning away the sur-

face dirt which covered most of the main image of the "Peace" cartoon.

"The cartoon was extremely dirty because it had been on a roller for over 100 years. But as we removed the dirt, shadowy forms began to emerge, which I recognised from seeing the other fresco."

"It was mostly the folds of the draperies which showed through because they are in lead white, which comes through the thin paint layers. It was very exciting as more forms began to emerge."

"Microscopic analysis of tiny paint samples proved that what we thought was true, and that the missing first cartoon was hidden underneath the second."

Dr Timothy Barringer, re-

search fellow in Victorian studies at the museum until last year, said: "This has been a mystery for as long as anyone has written about the frescoes. It is really a great discovery."

"Everyone assumed the first cartoon had been destroyed. It is a most welcome addition to our knowledge about the body of Leighton's work."

Dr Barringer, now a lecturer at Birkbeck College, London University, said: "These frescoes were done at the height of his career, and the nice thing is that we can now trace the whole process from beginning to end: to the museum curator and academic, it's the final piece of the Leighton jigsaw."

Anniversaries

Clark, Missouri, 1893; Max Beckmann, Expressionist painter, Leipzig, 1894; Roy Harris, composer, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, 1898; William Whitehead, poet Laureate 1897-1906; Cambridge baptised this day 1715; Charles Darwin, naturalist, Shrewsbury, 1809; Abraham Lincoln, 16th American President 1801-65; Larus Guðmundsson, 1804; Edward Forbes, naturalist, Douglas, life of Man, 1815; George Meredith, novelist, Portsmouth, 1828; Marie Lloyd, music-hall singer, London, 1867; Omar Nelson Bradley, American army gen-

eral, Clark, Missouri, 1893; Max Beckmann, Expressionist painter, Leipzig, 1894; Roy Harris, composer, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, 1898; William Whitehead, poet Laureate 1897-1906; Cambridge baptised this day 1715; Charles Darwin, naturalist, Shrewsbury, 1809; Abraham Lincoln, 16th American President 1801-65; Larus Guðmundsson, 1804; Edward Forbes, naturalist, Douglas, life of Man, 1815; George Meredith, novelist, Portsmouth, 1828; Marie Lloyd, music-hall singer, London, 1867; Omar Nelson Bradley, American army gen-

University news

Abigail Lott, formerly of Blackpool Sixth Form College, has been elected to a Nuffield Scholarship in Biological Science at Somerville College, Oxford.

Appointments

Mr Paul Anthony Mason Clark to be a Metropolitan Magistrate, Magistrate from February 19.

Forthcoming marriages

Sir William Arbuthnot, Bt, and Dr T.A.S. Bowyer Bowyer

The engagement is announced between William, elder son of the late Sir John Arbuthnot, of Killybegs, and of Lady Arbuthnot, of Fairholt Street, SW7, and Tanya, younger daughter of the late Mr Michael Bowyer Bowyer and of Mrs Bowyer Bowyer, of Devon.

Mr T.G.C. Billborough and Miss G. Martyn

The engagement is announced between Timothy George Crossley, son of Dick and Jeani Billborough, of Diss, Norfolk, and Georgina, twin daughter of the late Denis Martyn and of Mrs Paul Adams, of Glamysg, Gwynedd, Gwynedd.

Mr A.J. Bost and Miss C.A.L. Middlemas

The engagement is announced between Andrew, second son of Mr and Mrs Henry Bost, of Benington, Leicestershire, and Annabel, youngest daughter of Professor and Mrs Keith Middlemas, of West Burton House, West Burton, West Sussex.

Professor P. Gray and Mrs K.E. Hargreaves

The engagement is announced between Peter Gray, Master of Sturges and Cator College, Cambridge, and Rachel, daughter of Professor and Mrs Christopher Hargreaves, of Hargreaves, West Sussex.

Mr D.C. McCormick and Miss V. Bowyer

The engagement is announced between Douglas Connor, younger son of Mr and Mrs Fionn McCormick, of Saffron Walden, Essex, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Bowyer, of Whitman, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Mr F.H. Osmen and Miss F.H. Galloway

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the late Mr Ronald Frank Osmen and of Mrs J.O. Osmen, of North Naves, Cornwall, and Fiona, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Galloway, of Thomas Coffin, Somerset.

Mr B.D. Thorne and Miss E.J. Moss

The engagement is announced between Ben, the second of the five sons of Mr and Mrs Brian Thorne, of Lydney, Gloucestershire, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Moss, of Beeston, Nottingham.

Marriages

Mr T.P. Cabot and Miss S.R.E. Snow

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Glynde, near Lewes, East Sussex, of Mr Timothy Cabot, younger son of Mr Lewis Cabot, of Maine, United States, and of Lady Thompson, of Princeton, New Jersey, to Miss Sara Snow, younger daughter of the late Mr Peter Snow and of Viscountess Hampden, of Glynde. The Rev Dr P.A. Lynn officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Alexander Snow, was attended by Teresa Pilkington, Christina Hamlyn, Elizabeth Snow, Edward Rabben, and Joseph Snow. Mr Edward Cabot was best man. A reception was held at Glynde Place and the honeymoon will be spent in India.

Mr A.B. Iversen and Miss Y.L. Mitchell

The marriage took place on February 10, at the Edinburgh City of St Andrew's, of Mr and Mrs Iversen, son of Mr and Mrs Nils Iversen, East Sussex, to Miss Yvonne Mitchell, daughter of Mr and Mrs Nils Mitchell, of London.

Mr R.A.B. Moore and Miss C.M. Stewart

The marriage took place on February 10, at the Brompton Oratory, London, between Mr Rupert Moore, son of Mr and Mrs R.A.B. Moore, of London, and Miss Catherine Stewart, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stewart, of Southport, Connecticut. Father David Martin officiated. The bride was attended by Miss Catherine Moore, Miss Sophie Moore, Miss Mary Bury, Mrs Naomi Stewart, Laura Saunders, Poppy Skipper, Max Saunders and Miss Michelle Bury, maid of honour. Mr Frank Bury was best man. A reception was held at the Hyde Park Hotel and the honeymoon is being spent in Antigua.

Memorial service

Professor Donald Davie

Sir Terence Collier, Master of St Catherine's College, Cambridge, was present at a memorial service for Professor Donald Davie, poet and literary fellow of the college, held on Saturday in the college chapel. The Rev Paul Langham, chaplain, officiated.

Dr Mack Davie, son, read the lesson and Ms Elaine Feinstein read Professor Davie's *I take the Wings*, of the *Collected Poems*, by Seamus Heaney, published by Charles Tomlinson and Mr. Clive Wilmer also read Professor Davie's poetry.

Mr Michael Schmidt gave an address. The Right Rev Hugh Montefiore pronounced the blessing.

King Mohammed VI of Morocco. A memorial celebration was held for King Mohammed VI of Morocco at the Africa Centre, London WC1, on Saturday. It was organised by the Institute for Democracy and

Human Rights in Africa, of which the late King was the chief creator.

Lord O'Brien of Louthbury. A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lord O'Brien of Louthbury, GBE, PC, FRCA, will be held in the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire, the Crypt, St Paul's Cathedral, at 11.00am on Thursday, March 15.

Those attending are requested to take their seats by 10.30am. For further information, please contact the Assistant Secretary, Bank of England.

James Clyde Mitchell. A memorial meeting for James Clyde Mitchell, MA Oxon, FBA, will be held in Nuffield College Hall, Oxford, on Saturday, February 24, 1996, at 2.30pm.

Events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

BMDS: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

DEATHS

CHIGNALL - Geoffrey, 61, died peacefully on 7th February after a long and courageous fight against cancer. He was a much loved father, brother, uncle, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and three children. Burial at St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. on 12th February at 12 noon. All friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations to St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. or to the Friends of Michael Sobell House, Mount Vernon, Northwood, Middlesex.

CLIMBIE - Malcolm V.H., 70, died peacefully on 7th February after a long and courageous fight against cancer. He was a much loved father, brother, uncle, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and three children. Burial at St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. on 12th February at 12 noon. All friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations to St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. or to the Friends of Michael Sobell House, Mount Vernon, Northwood, Middlesex.

SCOTT - Michael and Gillian (nee Coulthard), a son, James Laurence Scott, died peacefully on 7th February at home. He was a much loved father, brother, uncle, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Gillian, and three children. Burial at St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. on 12th February at 12 noon. All friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations to St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. or to the Friends of Michael Sobell House, Mount Vernon, Northwood, Middlesex.

DEATHS

BARNES - Albert William, 85, died peacefully on 7th February after a long and courageous fight against cancer. He was a much loved father, brother, uncle, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and three children. Burial at St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. on 12th February at 12 noon. All friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations to St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. or to the Friends of Michael Sobell House, Mount Vernon, Northwood, Middlesex.

BUSBY - Edith Joan, 65, died peacefully on 7th February after a long and courageous fight against cancer. She was a much loved mother, sister, and friend. She is survived by her husband, John, and three children. Burial at St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. on 12th February at 12 noon. All friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations to St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. or to the Friends of Michael Sobell House, Mount Vernon, Northwood, Middlesex.

CARLILL - Vice Admiral Sir Stephen Hogg, 85, died peacefully on 7th February after a long and courageous fight against cancer. He was a much loved father, brother, uncle, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and three children. Burial at St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. on 12th February at 12 noon. All friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations to St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. or to the Friends of Michael Sobell House, Mount Vernon, Northwood, Middlesex.

DELS - George Joseph, 85, died peacefully on 7th February after a long and courageous fight against cancer. He was a much loved father, brother, uncle, and grandfather. He is survived by his wife, Joan, and three children. Burial at St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. on 12th February at 12 noon. All friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations to St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. or to the Friends of Michael Sobell House, Mount Vernon, Northwood, Middlesex.

DEATHS

HARVEY - On 28th February, Angela, wife of Ronald, died peacefully at home. She was a much loved mother, sister, and friend. She is survived by her husband, Ronald, and three children. Burial at St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. on 12th February at 12 noon. All friends are invited. Family flowers only please. Donations to St. Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Bucks. or to the Friends of Michael Sobell House, Mount Vernon, Northwood, Middlesex.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY HOUSE Association, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174

OBITUARIES

REAR-ADMIRAL CLARENCE HOWARD-JOHNSTON

Rear-Admiral Clarence Howard-Johnston, CB, DSO, DSC, wartime anti-U-boat director, died on January 26 aged 92. He was born on October 13, 1903.

VICTORY or defeat in the Second World War was determined by the outcome of the Battle of the Atlantic. Winston Churchill once remarked that the only thing that ever really frightened him during the war was the U-boat peril. For the Allies it was an essentially defensive campaign of science and strategy, where success depended less upon the application of individual skill, training, and courage, under conditions of extreme hardship, than upon technological invention, sagacious planning and high-level strategic insight.

Clarence Howard-Johnston, who was always known as "Johnny" to his friends, was intimately involved in every aspect of this struggle, from the early days of hands-on technical development through convoy escort command to the influential heights of staff work at the level of Churchill's War Cabinet.

The son of American and Scottish engineering families, with interests in Peru and Russia, Howard-Johnston was brought up in Nice, and first went to sea as plain Midshipman Johnston in 1922, serving in several battleships on the Home and Mediterranean stations. He later adopted one of his father's given names in order "to lift himself out of the ruck of Johnstons in the Navy List".

After a secondment to Paris to polish up his French, he was dispatched in 1929 to the China station as the second-in-command of the gunboat *Tarantula*, dealing with pirates on the Yangtze and West rivers.

But in 1931 he found his natural bent. An ingenious man with a talent for innovation and logical inquiry, he volunteered to specialise in anti-submarine warfare. He was soon serving in the destroyer *Boadicea*, later *Woodstock* and *Faulkner* as the anti-submarine expert for their groups, and later earned an Admiralty commendation for the invention of the "Johnston Mobile Target" for training Asdic operators. During the Spanish Civil War, the *Faulkner* was engaged in evacuating refugees including, on one occasion, an entire convent of nuns from Barcelona.

Promoted to the rank of commander in 1937, Howard-Johnston had a short tour in command of the destroyer *Viscount* before being appointed director of studies at the Greek Naval



Academy in Athens, where he was awarded the Order of the Phoenix by the King of the Hellenes.

During the unsuccessful campaign to protect Norway against German invasion in April 1940, Howard-Johnston commanded a force of anti-submarine trawlers in the fjords and was sunk by air attack, with three of his ships. Having been rescued, he played a part in the evacuation of troops from Andalsnes and Molde, for which he was awarded the DSC.

In June 1940 he transported eight tons of explosives to St Malo in the sloop *Wild Swan*. During the evacuation of the port he and his team continued demolitions until the enemy's advanced troops were almost at the gates. He received a mention in dispatches for this exploit.

A less adventurous period in the Anti-Submarine Warfare Division of the Admiralty was followed by appointment to command the destroyer *Malcolm* and Escort Group B12 in December 1940. The U-boat war was hotting up in that month 42 Allied

ships had been sunk — but no U-boats.

A contemporary commanding officer, Commander D. A. Rayner, wrote that he regarded Howard-Johnston as the finest senior officer in the Western Approaches and B12 the best group. He described him thus: "Fair-haired and of medium stature, he had the figure of a young man. Perhaps my strongest memory is of the terrific enthusiasm with which he approached every problem. Although he flogged us nearly to death in a never-ending search for efficiency, he never fussed us with unnecessary signals and held us together by a team spirit that neither wind, weather nor the enemy could break."

And Escort Group B12 did have a remarkable record. Through the terrible summer months of 1941, they escorted 1,229 ships without loss. They sank only one submarine, for which Howard-Johnston was awarded the DSO but, as he said at the time, "our business is to bring home the merchantmen. Sinking the enemy will come later."

After a short period in command of the destroyer *Hurricane* on escort duty, and by then widely recognised as a master of tactics, he was appointed in June 1942 — the worst of all months of the battle — to the staff of Admiral Sir Percy Noble, the C-in-C Western Approaches. Based at Liverpool, this headquarters under Noble and subsequently Sir Max Horton played a crucial role. As Anti-Submarine Staff Officer, Howard-Johnston was a hard taskmaster: his judgments, as shown in the official histories, must have been painful reading to those at sea who had forgotten that the prime aim was the safe and timely arrival of the convoy, and not the glamorous sinking of U-boats.

Promoted captain, he was sent in October 1943 to the Admiralty as the Director of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Division until the end of the war. This highly responsible post for a young captain knitted together all the intelligence and operational strands of the anti-submarine business and was answerable for briefing the War Cabinet.

At the end of the war, Howard-Johnston commanded the cruiser *Bermuda* in the Far East, where he was awarded the US Legion of Merit. His French connections helped him to secure a tour as naval attaché at the Paris Embassy followed by command of the underwater warfare school, HMS *Vernon*, at Portsmouth. Here he promoted the use of helicopters to hunt submarines, a *sine qua non* today.

He retired and was appointed CB in 1955, having had a final tour as a rear-admiral and as Nato Chief of Staff to the Flag Officer, Central Europe.

In retirement his prime concern was to build a wildfowl habitat in the Basque country near Bayonne. This required the conversion of a dilapidated mill at Bardos, much hydraulic innovation and the creation of a system of lakes. He was awarded the Mérite Agricole for this work. It would seem likely that he is the only British rear-admiral to be so honoured. Basques are a clammy people, but many attended his funeral in tears.

He was three times married; his son Richard by his first marriage was a sub-lieutenant under training with his classmates in the *Afray* when that submarine was lost with all hands in the Channel on April 17, 1951. His second marriage to Lady Alexandra, daughter of Earl Haig, was also dissolved. In 1955 he married Paulette Helieu and is survived by her and the two sons and daughter of the second marriage.

SIR JOHN BADENOCH

Sir John Badenoch, consultant physician and lecturer at Oxford University, died on January 16 aged 75. He was born on March 8, 1920.

JOHN BADENOCH taught several generations of medical students at Oxford University, first as Director of Clinical Studies, 1954-65, and then for twenty years as a consultant physician at the United Oxford Hospitals, as the group of Oxford hospitals was then known, and as a university lecturer.

He was at his most effective as a bedside teacher — guiding students on his ward rounds and taking them through the history and examination of a patient. He continued to call students by their surnames long after this practice had fallen out of fashion in the rest of the university, and to call patients by their full title. While Badenoch was capable of great charm, over-familiarity was anathema to him.

John Badenoch was the son of a Scottish family doctor who practised in London, and he began his preclinical studies in Oxford in 1938. In 1941 he was awarded a Rockefeller student fellowship to complete his studies at Cornell University in New York State. He returned to Oxford in 1943 after a long, adventurous, wartime crossing of the Atlantic. Soon after his arrival he passed the final medical examinations of Oxford University and became house physician to the professorial unit. In 1944 he married Anne Forster and then left Oxford again, this time as a major in the RAMC, serving first in Africa and then in command of a military hospital in Kent. A spell in general practice in London followed but he was more interested in combining clinical practice with teaching and research. Thus he returned to Oxford in 1949 as a research fellow in the Nutfield department of medicine.

He studied nutritional anaemias and bone diseases caused by malabsorption from the gut and then became, serendipitously, the first person to perform the now widely practised biopsy of the mucosal lining of the gut. His thesis, based on these studies, was accepted for the DM degree in 1952.

Badenoch loved teaching, particularly at the bedside, and in 1954 he was appointed Director of Clinical Studies, at a time when the Oxford Medical School was going through a turbulent period of growth and development. His steady influence on the capricious professoriate helped to establish what is now one of the outstanding medical schools in the country. He remained in that post for 11 years.

He was invited to sit on numerous committees, including the planning committee for the new John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, an experience that stood him in good stead when he was asked to advise on setting up the clinical school in Cambridge, and some years later a medical school in Oman.

His association with Merton College began in 1965 when he became a Fellow and he was Sub-Warden, 1976-78. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1959 and was invited to give the Goulstonian Lecture the following year, an honour restricted to one of the youngest newly-elected fellows.

The college used him in various capacities — as examiner and chairman of the examining board, as pro-censor, censor and senior censor, and as the Hans Sloane Fellow, 1985-91, responsible for arranging hospital training in Britain for overseas doctors. He was knighted in 1984.

Retirement from clinical practice in 1985 brought no respite, and more work was piled upon him. The Government asked him to lead inquiries into the outbreak of legionnaires' disease in Stafford and into the contamination with cryptosporidium of the Norfolk Broads and other areas of the Anglian Water region; he chaired the Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, was a member of the General Medical Council and the British Health Foundation executive council.

Yet he still found time for nature study, especially ornithology, for photography — using an "electronic eye" to capture on film the nocturnal badger and an occasional poacher — and for travel. When he and his wife felt the need to recharge their batteries, they found peace in Strath Spey, the lands of the Badenochs in northeast Scotland.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.



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SHARMAN DOUGLAS

Sharmar Douglas, New York socialite and charity worker, died from cancer on February 3 aged 67. She was born on October 5, 1928.

SHARMAN DOUGLAS was the vivacious blonde daughter of Lewis Douglas, the American Ambassador to the Court of St James's during the late 1940s. She attracted a good deal of attention in her own right when she first arrived in London, but it was her subsequent friendship with Princess Margaret which really defined her life, and which brought her lasting celebrity in both Britain and America.

Her father Lewis W. Douglas had inherited his vast wealth from the family's copper mines in Arizona. He built a political career as a Democratic Congressman, before being rewarded with the London Embassy in 1947. Sharmar — known to all as Sass — was educated at Brearley School and at Vassar, which she left to accompany her parents to London. She was a vivacious, gregarious young woman who loved the outdoors and sports, particularly riding, tennis and basketball. She was also very photogenic, tall with flaxen hair and deep blue eyes. Reporters took an immediate interest in her American looks and quaint flat shoes. In her turn, she was refreshingly candid with them. She admitted, for instance, to being "petrified" of meeting the Royal Family.

She did not have long to wait for the introduction and by the following year, despite her misgivings, had become firm friends with Princess



Sharmar Douglas with Princess Margaret in 1950

Margaret. The Princess was, in her turn, introduced to Sharmar's friends — English and American — and a group of these would meet for high-spirited evenings at the American Residence, unregarded by inquisitive reporters. But, of course, the newspapers were fascinated with Sharmar, as they were with anyone close to the glamorous young Princess, and they promptly christened this new group of friends the "Margaret Set". In fact, as Princess Margaret was the first to point out, they were, if anything, the "Sharmar Set". Nearly all of the Princess's new friends

were introduced to her by Sharmar. But when Sharmar returned to America in 1950, Margaret became the new centre of the group.

Gossip columns were filled with the most minute details of Sharmar's social life. There was the party she hosted in 1949, for instance, at which Princess Elizabeth arrived dressed as an Edwardian parlour maid, Prince Philip as a waiter, and Prince Margaret as a can-can dancer. If Sharmar brought a welcome breeze of American informality to English society, she received in turn a great deal of hospitality. Her weekends

were spent in grand country houses, and she was one of the first Americans to drive in the royal procession at Ascot. There were even rumours of her impending engagement to the Marquess of Milford Haven.

Both she and Princess Margaret were stage-struck, and would often go to the theatre together. When they were watching American actors, Sharmar had no compunction about taking Princess Margaret backstage afterwards to meet the stars. It was on one of these informal evenings at the London Palladium that Princess Margaret met Danny Kaye, of whom she became a close friend.

Apart from her hectic social life, Sharmar tried to take her job as the Ambassador's daughter seriously. She was often called upon to act as a deputy hostess to her mother, and she put herself through her own version of "finishing school" — visiting juvenile courts, youth clubs, children's hospitals and Scotland Yard in order better to understand British life. She also did a secretarial course, after which she thought it might be fun to get a job.

In 1950 her father returned to America and Sharmar returned with him. She had already worked as a social secretary with Jean Simmons, and now she was appointed publicity agent to Sir Alexander Korda. Hollywood was amused by her Anglicised ways. She did not care much about her salary or for clocking in at the office punctually in the mornings. And she insisted on taking a long weekend in the British tradition, from Friday until Tues-

day. But she was extremely able at her work. During the 1950s she did publicity work for Jane Russell and Robert Mitchum, and became a theatre angel with her own company, Sass Incorporated.

In 1966 she was appointed Commissioner of Public Events in New York, with a brief from the Mayor, John Lindsay, to "bring some class" into the department. She was an immensely talented hostess, and she took great pains over details, finding out what sort of flowers and food her guests liked. She continued to work in public relations until her death, organising charitable Anglo-American benefits and in this way helping to cement the Anglo-American relationship. She was one of the brightest stars among her group of friends in New York, and despite being ill for the past year, remained sprightly and independent.

Her friendship with the Royal Family never waned. She arranged the visit of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon to Hollywood in 1965, and entertained the Duke of Edinburgh during his visits to the States. She visited London at least once a year, often staying at Claridge's. If she was holding a reception, even a very small one for a dozen people, it was not unusual to see the Queen there.

To her regret, she never had children. After politely deflecting inquiries about her personal life for many years, Sharmar Douglas married in 1968 Andrew Hay, the president of a food importing firm. But it was not a happy marriage, and they were divorced in 1977. She is survived by her two brothers.

SIR RICHARD ALLEN

Sir Richard Allen, KCMG, Ambassador to Burma, 1956-62, died on January 16 aged 92. He was born on February 3, 1903.

RICHARD ALLEN may have had a conventional Foreign Office career but, for a diplomat, he certainly enjoyed an unconventional retirement. On leaving the British Embassy in Rangoon at the age of 59, he accepted a post as lecturer at the University of Walla in Washington State on the West Coast of America. He later held visiting lectureships at other US universities, notably those of Oregon and Virginia. A recognised authority on what was then called "the Pacific Rim", he was the author of two books on the politics of South-East Asia.

Richard Hugh Sedley Allen was educated at the Royal Naval College of Osborne and Dartmouth and then, having been invalided out of the Navy as an officer cadet, at New College, Oxford. After two years as a junior assistant secretary to the Governor of Palestine, he joined the Foreign Office in 1927 and was then posted to Tokyo two years later. He learnt enough Japanese to qualify for a language allowance, and throughout his career made a point of bucking down to learn the most difficult languages of his various postings (he also mastered Russian).

Allen did a spell of three years at the Foreign Office during the Second World War. He then went to Warsaw from 1945 to 1950. There followed a succession of posts in Latin America — minister (that is, number two) in Buenos Aires, after which he was appointed CMB, and then minister in charge of the Legation at Guatemala, 1954-56.

His last post was also his longest. He served as Ambassador to Burma for six eventful years, 1956-62, an exciting period of Burma's postwar history. The worst of the civil war, which followed independence, was over. U Nu, the Prime Minister, was a prominent figure in the Non-Aligned Movement. In spite of war damage, much of the country's infrastructure was still in reasonably good shape. British firms (such as the Burmah Oil Company and the Bombay-Burma Trading Company) still played an important part

in Burma's economic life. It was not until the military clampdown of 1962 that the country was turned into a hermit nation for a quarter of a century. Fortunately for Allen, this was his last year *en poste* as Ambassador.

Allen was appointed KCMG in 1960, the last British Ambassador to Burma to receive a knighthood. Rangoon gossip had it that this unusual honour was to be explained by the fact that a particular type of large lizard, a well-known harbinger of good fortune, had recently made its home behind the picture of the Queen in the Ambassador's residence.

In addition to his two books on South-East Asia — the first was specifically on Malaysia — Allen also wrote more ambitiously on the Arab-Israeli conflict. His *Imperialism and Nationalism in the Fertile Crescent* (1974) was highly praised at the time. On his return from America he went to live in Britain and, when that turned out not to be a success, retired to live by the sea in Chichester. He was always interested in the young, with an eye for pretty women, and in his old age in Chichester attracted a bevy of young people who were happy to look after him and to be entertained by his suave and witty accounts of his varied life.

He married in 1945 Juliet Home Thomson who, along with her son, predeceased him. He is survived by a stepson.



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Church news

Appointments

The Right Rev John Richards, Bishop of Eborac, to be also an Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Bath and Wells.
The Rev Phil Abrey, Curate, Caversham Park Church LE1, to be also County Ecclesiastical Officer for Bedfordshire (Oxford).
The Rev Timothy Ashworth, Chaplain, Segrill House, Kentwell-to-Vain, Segrill, to be Vicar, Chapel-le-Dale (Bedford).
The Rev Victor Ashworth, Chaplain, Segrill House, Kentwell-to-Vain, Segrill, to be Vicar, Chapel-le-Dale (Bedford).
The Rev Richard Billingsley, Vicar, St Margaret, Ward End (Birmingham), to be Vicar, St Mary's, St Asaph.
The Rev Canon Donald Book to be Honorary Secretary, St Andrews, Bournemouth, to be Vicar, St Andrews, Bournemouth.
The Rev Michael Croucher, Assis-

tant Curate, Dinnington, Sheffield; to be Vicar, Beighton (Sheffield).
The Rev Ronald Cook, until recently chaplain of HM Prison, Brixton (Norwich); to be Vicar, All Saints, Kettering (Peterborough).
The Rev Eric Deane, Priest-in-charge, Kirkdale, St Lawrence (Liverpool); to be Vicar, Maidstone St Luke (Canterbury).
The Rev Graham Dodds, Rector, Bath Walkot; to be Lay Training Adviser and Director of Reader Studies (Bath and Wells).
The Rev Stephen Earl, Curate, Stowton; to be Vicar, Barwell (Ely).
The Rev Nigel Ely, Assistant Curate, SS Peter and Paul, Rustington (Chichester); to be Rustington, Post 16 Centre, Newtown (Birmingham).
The Rev Jennifer Fryer, Chaplain's Assistant at the Royal Hallamshire and Weston Park Hospitals, Sheffield; to be full-time Assistant Chaplain of the Northern General

Hospital, Sheffield (Sheffield).
The Rev Lee Gandy, Assistant Curate, Lowestoft St Margaret's; to be also Diocesan representative to the Committee on Black Anglican Concerns (Norwich).
The Rev Joe Hawes, Curate, Clapham Team Ministry; to be Vicar, St Michael and All Angels, Barnes (Southwark).
The Rev Tim Hawkins, Vicar, St Peter's, Penryn; to be Priest-in-charge, St Keverne (Truro).
The Rev Patrick Hoare, Assistant Curate (NSM), St Mary and St Peter, Saines; to be Priest-in-charge, (NSM), St Mary Magdalene, Littleton (London).
The Rev James McKimsey, Vicar, Cleator Moor; to be Vicar, Holy Trinity, Roehampton (Southwark).
The Rev Anthony Macpherson, Priest-in-charge, St Michael's, Westgate Common, Wakefield; to

be Vicar of that benefice (Wakefield).
The Rev Paul Miller, Vicar, Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom; to be also Rural Dean of Orpington (Rochester).
The Rev Shugh Phillips; to be Associate Director of Training (Norwich).
The Rev Stephen Raine, Vicar, St Edwin's, Doncaster (Sheffield); to be Vicar, St Mary's, Kettering (Peterborough).
The Rev Jenny Smith, Assistant Curate, and Chaplain of Bradford Cathedral; to be Priest-in-charge, Kelbrook (Bradford).
Resignations and retirements
The Rev Colin Hurford, Rector, Team Ministry of Billingham St Aidan and St Luke (Durham); to resign as from June 30.
The Rev Donald Sparks, Vicar, Christ Church, Pilsomer (Sheffield); to retire September 30.
The Rev Noel Toogood, Vicar, Madron (Truro); retired Jan 31.

TREMORS SHAKE 11 COUNTIES

CASUALTIES IN MIDLANDS

An earth tremor, generally agreed to have been the most severe and widespread in Britain for many years, was felt in 11 counties in the Midlands yesterday. It occurred at approximately 3.45pm and its effects were felt in towns as far apart as Blackpool and Sheffield in the North, Grimsby in the East, and Bristol in the West.

There were many reports of chimneys tipping and falling, and several people were treated for minor injuries and shock.

The counties affected were Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Gloucestershire, and Warwickshire. People in a Nottingham cinema became alarmed when the screen began shaking. Women screamed and several people were knocked down in a rush to the exits. The staff shouted to the audience to remain in their seats, but many people ignored the appeal. A large crack appeared in the wall of Nottingham ambulance headquarters. A chimney stack which collapsed in Norton

ON THIS DAY

February 12, 1957

Seismologists may not have been much impressed by these tremors, but buildings were shaken and chimney pots toppled in towns as far apart as Blackpool and Bristol.

Street crashed through a garage roof, severely damaging the car inside. In Duke Street, where another chimney stack collapsed, a sledge inside the house began to smoulder and had to be removed.

At Nottingham Divorce Court the walls and the canopy above Judge R.S. Nicklin's head vibrated violently. Proceedings stopped but were resumed after the tremor.

The boy injured is Paul Stevenson, aged four, who was walking with his mother, Mrs Jean Stevenson, aged 28, of Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby, in Market Street, Derby. She saw a chimney stack falling and

told the boy to run, but the masonry struck him. He was detained in hospital. Mrs Stevenson, who was carrying her daughter aged four months, was struck on the leg by a piece of the chimney as she ran, bending over her baby to protect her.

A Derby fire brigade official said: "Engines and tenders were racing round the town trying to keep up with the alarms. In as many minutes we had 64 reports of chimney stacks crashing to the ground."

Several thousand miners in the area were deep underground when the tremors occurred. Fire props were shaken, and trolleys full of coal rocked on their rails. In spite of the alarm work at all the pits continued after a delay.

Twenty-five girls working at the factory of the Royal Crown Derby Porcelain Company Limited, were saved by a sunshine roof. A large chimney pot fell down towards them and shattered the glass, but the wire reinforced roof held the dropping masonry.

The tremor was recorded at 3.44 pm in the Leicestershire coalfield area. People in mining towns and villages ran from their homes fearing there had been an underground explosion. Houses were shaken and some people were thrown to the ground by the violence of the vibrations which persisted for several seconds.

NEWS

M15 warning of more bombs

John Major held talks with senior Cabinet colleagues in Downing Street to finalise a security clampdown aimed at foiling a renewed IRA bombing campaign on the mainland. After the Docklands attack, which killed two and injured more than 100, it emerged that M15 had warned the Government a month ago to expect a renewal of violence. M15 also said that there would be more terrorist attacks on the mainland and possibly in Northern Ireland. Pages 1, 2, 3

Rift between London and Dublin

The Prime Minister was trying to contain a serious new rift with Dublin over the events which led to Friday's bomb and an end to the 17-month IRA ceasefire. At the same time, President Clinton pledged to do all in his power to rescue the Irish peace initiative. Page 1

Jockey hurt

Walter Swinburn, one of Britain's leading jockeys and three times a Derby winner, was unconscious in an intensive care unit of a Hong Kong hospital after falling in a race. Page 1

Lightning marks

Victims of the world's biggest multiple lightning strike were left with odd skin markings and have shown strange psychological effects since they were injured five months ago. Page 5

Reading gaps

Academics said that English A-level syllabuses which allowed schools to avoid virtually all pre-20th century literature were creating alarming gaps in the reading of students arriving at university. Page 6

Carroll's puzzles

A series of baffling puzzles and brain-teasers invented by Lewis Carroll to amuse Victorian children and Oxford dons has been unearthed. Page 6

Flower power

British botanists are spearheading a campaign to save some of the world's most endangered and exotic flowers. Page 7

Boy's drink spiked

A boy was suffering from complete memory loss a week after his drink was apparently spiked with drugs at a party to celebrate the end of exams. Page 7

Computer beats gloomy Kasparov

First blood in the chess match between a computer and Garry Kasparov, the world champion, went to the machine. Against expectations, IBM's rapier-quick Deep Blue computer won the first of six scheduled matches, to whoops of joy from computer programmers. Kasparov was reported to be in a gloom after resigning on the 37th move. Page 1

Blair attack

Tony Blair launched a scathing attack on the Conservatives as the party of privilege and ridiculed their devotion to "a small Tory elite". Page 8

Forbes stumbles

Steve Forbes, the millionaire publisher, appeared to have stumbled in the minefields of Iowa's caucuses as the battle for the soul of the Republican Party reached a nadir of negative campaigning. Page 10

Israeli election

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, formally announced his intention of holding early general elections. Page 11

Dollars for Russia

The United States Treasury is to unload millions of its new \$100 notes - which are supposedly counterfeit-proof - on Russia. Page 12

Security gaps

Seven weeks before the European Union starts revamping the Maastricht treaty, the 15 member states have given themselves a fresh lesson in their inability to take joint charge of security in their own backyard. Page 12

Keating ahead

Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister, emerged marginally ahead of the Opposition leader, John Howard, in a nationally televised debate. Page 13



The Duchess of Kent meets women in a slum area of Varanasi, India, during a visit to mark the 50th anniversary of Unicef

Gas leak

Last week's demerger plans from British Gas could mean the loss of huge potential tax revenues from the company's Morecambe Bay field. Page 44

On trial

The hearing starts today of another milestone fraud case: the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, a former adviser to Asil Nadir. Page 44

TV wars

Michael Green's Carlton Communications is widely tipped as the protagonist to upset a marriage between United News and Media and MAI. Page 41

Job claim

The Government will today pile fuel on the dispute over the social chapter with figures that show that Britain's more flexible economy and labour market is outperforming its competitors in Europe. Page 44

Wagner triumphant

At the London Coliseum, English National Opera has staged a thrilling production of Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, conducted by Mark Elder. Page 15

Perilous profession

The story of a child psychiatrist who is subjected to physical and verbal attacks is the subject of Stephen Poliakoff's powerful new play at the Hampstead Theatre, *Sweet Panic*. Page 15

Cézanne of the day

The mastery of *Mont Sainte-Victoire* seen from *Bibemus*, painted in about 1897, is Richard Cork's choice for the Tate's current Cézanne exhibition. Page 15

Coltrane by Clark

Jazz band leader Clark Tracey has compiled a tribute to John Coltrane for his most recent London gigs. Page 15

Just good friends

When the queen comes to stay with the Carnarvons, as she has done for 40 years, she shares the family roast. Mary Riddell talks to Lady Carnarvon, chatelaine of Highclere Castle and loyal royal friend. Page 17

Just what she needs

Age is a state of mind, says best-selling author Gill Sheehy, who argues that there is life after 50 - what she calls "second adulthood". Page 17

Taking genetic advantage

The race is on to find a "safe" genetic test which would predict whether an unborn baby is likely to develop a disease later in life. The first in a two-part series about you and your baby. Page 16

IN THE TIMES

FUTURE PERFECT
From you to your baby, part two: the package pregnancy

GOOD FELLA
Hollywood director Martin Scorsese comes to town and talks to Joe Joseph

Copa-Cola Cup

An own goal by Chris Whyte, of Birmingham City, presented Leeds United with a 2-1 victory in the first leg of the semi-final. Page 23

Crisis

Seven hours of debate failed to break the deadlock over the refusal by Australia and West Indies to play in Sri Lanka. Both forfeit two points. Pages 23, 25

Football

Liverpool strengthened their position as third in the Premiership with a 2-1 victory over Queens Park Rangers. Page 27

Rugby union

Rob Andrew, the former England stand-off half, kicked started Newcastle's plans to join the game's elite, but was unable to prevent defeat in the Pilkington Cup. Page 32

Rugby league

Wigan lost in the Challenge Cup for the first time in nine years, their record being broken by Salford, who beat them 26-16 in the fifth round. Page 34

Athletics

Aisha Hansen broke the British and Commonwealth triple jump records at Birmingham, but still attracted criticism from her coach for not showing enough speed down the runway. Page 32

Racing

Walter Swinburn, the Newmarket-based jockey, was taken to hospital after suffering a heart attack while riding. Page 31

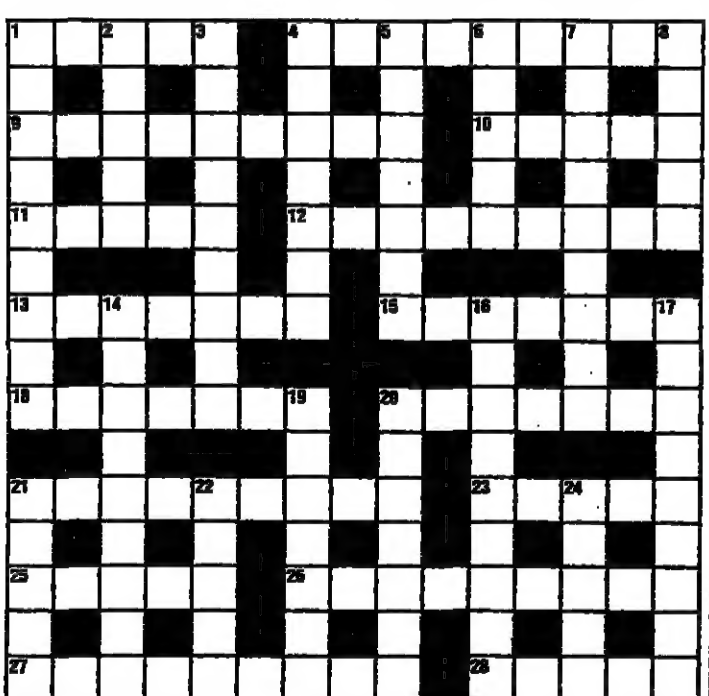
London bomb

Need for new house in the countryside: China's threat to Taiwan. Page 19

The IRA cannot

cannot gain more through terror than they can through the pursuit of peace. If anything, a new campaign of terror will only set back their cause and wound their people. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,088



- ACROSS**
- Puzzle concerning coach (5).
 - Prince's container with a piece of meat rejected by a husband (9).
 - Adjust to accommodate island's form of social organization (9).
 - Cruel mistreatment makes us sore (5).
 - Follow directions and go into action (5).
 - Fish caught in rolling swell showing extra damage (9).
 - Many-sided figure beginning to compose an essay in study (7).
 - Musical passage unknown in a dance composition (7).
 - One ruling about entering disputed border region (7).
 - Unending wish to limit the old man's hopelessness (7).
 - Restricted in movement after heavy fall (9).
 - Crime some fear so needlessly (5).
- DOWN**
- Port makes bad lot upset bananas (9).
 - Releases cricket gear (5).
 - Old street cleaner that is the retaliative type (9).
 - Representation of Nemesis in Dresden (7).
 - Classically imposing residence mostly novel for Victorians (7).
 - Hooligan knocks top off food container (5).
 - Wood initially judged appropriate club at St. Andrews (9).
 - Airer on which you might put your shirt (5).
 - Latter in agreement (9).
 - Base celebrity in extremely boring setting out East (9).
 - In Ireland, an unusual stimulant (9).
 - Obsessed, as Scrooge was (7).
 - Decrepit stranger seen in outskirts of Derby (7).
 - A single shot in the silence (5).
 - Bishop's always shown up for papal message (5).
 - Worm tire's a cause of ecological damage (5).

ABERLOUR
The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,087 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

THE TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, call 0991 500 followed by appropriate code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
East of England	702
South East	703
West of England	704
North East	705
North West	706
Yorkshire	707
East Midlands	708
West Midlands	709
East of Scotland	710
West of Scotland	711
North of Scotland	712
South of Scotland	713
Central Scotland	714
North East of Scotland	715
South East of Scotland	716
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South of Scotland	719
Central Scotland	720
North East of Scotland	721
South East of Scotland	722
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North East of Scotland	799
South East of Scotland	800

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and road conditions, 24 hours a day, call 0300 401 followed by appropriate code.

Region	Code
Greater London	701
East of England	702
South East	703
West of England	704
North East	705
North West	706
Yorkshire	707
East Midlands	708
West Midlands	709
East of Scotland	710
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Central Scotland	798
North East of Scotland	799
South East of Scotland	800

HOURS OF DARKNESS

	Sun rises: 7:22 am	Sun sets: 5:09 pm	Moon rises: 10:36 am	Moon sets: 1:02 am
	Moon sets: 10:39 am			

last quarter today

London 5:09 pm to 7:20 am
Bristol 5:19 pm to 7:23 am
Edinburgh 5:09 pm to 7:19 am
Manchester 5:08 pm to 7:20 am
Birmingham 5:09 pm to 7:21 am
Cardiff 5:10 pm to 7:22 am
Belfast 5:11 pm to 7:23 am
Sheffield 5:12 pm to 7:24 am
Nottingham 5:13 pm to 7:25 am
Leeds 5:14 pm to 7:26 am
Bradford 5:15 pm to 7:27 am
Coventry 5:16 pm to 7:28 am
Warwick 5:17 pm to 7:29 am
Gloucester 5:18 pm to 7:30 am
Bristol 5:19 pm to 7:31 am
Bath 5:20 pm to 7:32 am
Exeter 5:21 pm to 7:33 am
Truro 5:22 pm to 7:34 am
St Austell 5:23 pm to 7:35 am
Penryn 5:24 pm to 7:36 am
Helston 5:25 pm to 7:37 am
St Ives 5:26 pm to 7:38 am
Marazion 5:27 pm to 7:39 am
St Michael's Mount 5:28 pm to 7:40 am
St Martin's 5:29 pm to 7:41 am
St Peter's 5:30 pm to 7:42 am
St Paul's 5:31 pm to 7:43 am
St Andrew's 5:32 pm to 7:44 am
St George's 5:33 pm to 7:45 am
St James's 5:34 pm to 7:46 am
St John's 5:35 pm to 7:47 am
St Mary's 5:36 pm to 7:48 am